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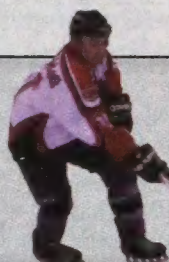
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Talking With Rick Mercer

Joanne Irvine
Staff Reporter

Hours of filming a days worth of exciting dog sled action and it will all be pared down to a much anticipated 4-8 minute segment on the popular CBC Rick Mercer Report airing Tuesday, February 5th at 8:30 p.m.

The County Voice had a chance to speak with the popular political satirist, Rick Mercer, who is also known for his role on This Hour Has 22 Minutes. He was here with his film crew after hearing about the event only a couple days before.

"Our office received an email a couple days ago from the organizer (Winterdance's Tanya McCready) and we're always looking for this type of thing, so we decided right away to come up." He admits that the majority of his show ideas come from people emailing him ideas and requests to cover their events.

Haliburton County welcomed Rick with open arms and hospitality. Actually, he enjoyed the event so much, he stayed way beyond the scheduled timeframe, and actually participated in the race by challenging the visiting Jamaican dog sled team.

What inspired the challenge was something more than just the excitement of the race. It seems there's a close bond between Jamaicans and Newfoundlanders that goes

Mercer cont'd... pg. 7...

Watch
For The
'Haliburton
Segment'
Airing
February
5th on
CBC



Haliburton County Council to Rethink Library Closures...

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

County residents were heard loud and clear at Tuesday night's public meeting in Highlands East on the Haliburton County Public Library facility rationalization. Those are the fancy terms to describe the proposed closure of 4 out of the 8 libraries in the County. Over 100 people poured into the Lloyd Watson Community Centre to hear the County's rationalization for their decision, which was passed by resolution in August of 2007. After hearing a background review by Haliburton County CAO Jim Wilson, 14 formal presentations were made by residents in Highlands East. To say the least, each of these fourteen speakers spoke with passion and conviction, making comments that came straight from the heart.

The Haliburton County Public Library Board, governed under the Public Libraries Act has six members, appointed by the County Council for a 4 year term. Three members, Cheryl Murdoch, Tom Gardner and Jim Mackie are appointed from the County Council and three members, Jan Hamden, Nancy McLuskey and Rozanne Hynard are appointed as members of the public. The Board is responsible for the provision of library services including staffing and book collection, while Townships are responsible for providing and maintaining the library facilities. The Board's Mission Statement indicates their "desire to serve and enrich the entire community through the use of well supported and promoted services in a safe and accessible environment." Wilson's background report stated that the Board believes focusing on the adequacy

of library facilities, on ensuring highly trained staff, the importance of library collections, access to electronic information and on the importance of technology in the delivery of services.

With these goals in mind the outgoing Board, in their 2006 Legacy Report strongly recommended that the new & existing Board develop a 5 year capital plan to restructure the current system and allow for building expansion in Minden and Haliburton. Their decision was based on an evaluation conducted at their request by Ontario Library Services and a subsequent report submitted in 2003. The report indicated that many of the building facilities did not meet current recommended standards with deficiencies including dampness, air quality and ventilation, disabled accessibility and load bearing problems. The size of collections in some branches was found to be below standard and hours of operation insufficient. The findings in the report also indicated that the physical condition of the existing branches did not offer much in terms of expansion or improvement capabilities with limited space even for additional programs or services. This is primarily due to the fact that most branches are located in buildings not originally designed for use as libraries. The previous Library Board concluded that there was a need to look at rationalization of services by developing a long term plan to provide better services to their patrons. This was to be accomplished by establishing larger facilities, increasing the hours at each facility and expanding book collections for each branch.

In making their decision about closure of facilities, the existing Library Board also took into consideration a survey conducted in 2005 by the Friends of the Haliburton

Library cont'd... pg. 2...

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a kind of
shotgun
wedding."

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For listings, see second section of this newspaper.

Welcome County Voice!!

Library Closures Evoke Passionate Arguments

... from pg. 1

County Public Library. Their survey, representing an equal number of permanent and seasonal residents, indicated a number of reasons for not using the libraries including lack of time, location, parking, hours that were inconvenient and the facilities not meeting the needs of residents.

In 2007, based on the these findings, as well as statistics indicating a steady decline in circulation, programming that was not uniformly available and usage representing only 26% of the permanent population, the Board found themselves looking at the pros and cons of maintaining the status quo and rationalizing the number of facilities in an effort to ensure the provision of better services to taxpayers. Reasons for making the change included the desire to have a more consistent level of service across the County, the notion that newer facilities might attract new patrons, that consolidation of facilities could allow budget dollars to be channeled to library resources and programming, and that improved accessibility for the disabled and growing senior population as well as greater access to existing book collections might result. The Board considered that the choice of branch library options would be reduced, there would be an increase in travel time to users, the sense of community loss would be felt with closures and there was a potential for loss of some patrons with closures. Finally, the Board also considered the fact that as new facilities were built in Minden and Haliburton there would be increasing pressure to provide the same level of service in Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East.

Ultimately, despite the fact that there was no public consultation process, the Board recommended to the County Council that the County provide operational funding for only

one library branch in each of the four municipalities effective with the 2009 fiscal year and that those municipalities with multiple branches advise the Library Board in 2008 of their plan to meet this requirement. Their recommendation was further rationalized by their hopes to establishing meeting room space that could be used by groups outside of regular library hours, allowing for better planning and scheduling of

programs for children, youth and adults such as book-based library ventures, book clubs, and hobbyists. Little was said about how the goals of the Board would be financed.

What was very evident from the meeting in Highlands East on Tuesday was the fact that, despite best efforts, the Library Board and County Council underestimated the sense of history, tradition and pride of ownership that is so firmly grounded in small settlements like Cardiff, Gooderham, Highland Grove and Wilberforce. The sentiments of Highlands East residents were mirrored in comments made by Councillor Suzanne Partridge, representing the Council for the Municipality. Partridge had some numbers of her own which indicated that the residents in Highlands East borrow more than twice as many books as the folks in Minden Hills and over 40 percent more than those borrowed from the Haliburton Library. Partridge

spoke of the libraries in her Municipality being a web of communication for the residents and that it was unrealistic to have libraries located according to political boundaries rather than being placed in areas of habitation. She also voiced what was a common thread in presentations made by residents in that many users cannot afford nor do they have the means to travel to larger centres to visit a library. Partridge said that Highlands East did not need additional meeting room space as the community has facilities more than suitable for their needs. She spoke of the Municipal Council's willingness to correct many of the stated deficiencies and to work closely with the Library Board, imploring the County Council to maintain the status quo.

All but one of the presenters spoke with an undivided voice about their libraries being an integral part and in fact heart of their communities. Eleanor Malcolmson, Chair of the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library, said she would be pleased to see a move to improving services across the County and implored the audience to consider the points made by the County Library Board. Malcolmson, a founding member and trustee of her organization for over six years voiced her strong support of the decision being made to streamline services, programming and costs, saying that she felt it would increase adult literacy and long term learning for all. Unlike other presenters, who were supported by many cheers of support and applause, Malcolmson's comments, while equally heartfelt, were not nearly as well received.

The presentations made by residents were honest and straightforward. Numerous comments showed the respect and thanks residents had for individual librarians who had offered

unparalleled service to every individual entering their library doors, as well as concern for their future should the libraries close. Along with other presenters who likened the direction being proposed by the Library Board to that of amalgamation, Michele Smith of Highland Grove described amalgamation as a 'sort of shotgun wedding' which had caused considerable rivalry between communities. She suggested that the closure of libraries could cause similar difficulties. Smith reiterated the overall feeling that while a decision to close local libraries might look good on paper, living in the area had never been about the money, but was about the people. She said that over the past hundred years, many small settlements in the area had disappeared and were now in existence only as names on old maps, adding that with a simple stroke of the pen, the Board could consign Highland Grove to the same fate. Her heart-felt eloquence and passion was equaled by all who spoke.

Once each presentation was heard, there was a period of questions and answers, most of which were a continuation of the desire of all residents to keep their libraries. Responses were given by Board Chair Cheryl Murdoch. In her summary Murdoch conceded that the Board had acted without sufficient regard for the opinions and feelings of area residents who wish to hold on, tooth and nail to the libraries that offer them so much. Murdoch congratulated the ratepayers of Highlands East, agreeing that the Board had underestimated residents desire to maintain the status quo. She advised the audience that the County Council and Library Board would do some soul searching about what they heard. Murdoch asked that working groups be established to look at how deficiencies could be met and how funding could be raised to reach the goals of the Library Board without making any closures. Murdoch also asked everyone in attendance to reflect carefully on what would be needed by residents 5, 10 and 20 years from now. The audience responded in one voice...."our local libraries!"

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Police Reports

Minden Man Charged with Impaired

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands have a charged a driver as a result of a vehicle stop in the early morning hours of Saturday January 26th, 2008 in Haliburton Village.

The driver was arrested after being spoken to by officers and taken to the Haliburton Highlands Detachment.

Benjamin Saunders 21 years, of Minden Hills is charged with Impaired Driving, Driving Over 80mgs and Possession of Cannabis. Mr. Saunders will be appearing in Minden court on March 4, 2008 in relation to the charges.

Three other drivers also had their licences suspended for 12 hours after being stopped by the police during the weekend. Officers were also called to investigate 15 motor vehicle collisions during the course of the weekend.

Drivers are reminded to take a taxi or have a designated driver if they have been consuming alcohol.

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Saturday -2°C -10°C A mix of sun and cloud.	Sunday -2°C -8°C Light Snow
Monday -3°C -10°C Light Snow.	Tuesday -2°C -10°C Light Snow.
Wednesday -5°C -13°C Light Snow.	Fire Rating

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers

LOTTO 649
 January 26 2008
 01 05 11 37 44 47
 Bonus Number 36
 Encore 2431169

SUPER 7
 January 25 2008
 04 09 10 17 26 32 33
 Bonus Number 27
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These are all unofficial numbers. To confirm a win please visit www.olg.ca or visit a local authorized OLG dealer.

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On Feb. 10, 1920, "Kathleen Mavourneen," starring Theda Bara, provokes a riot when it opens in San Francisco. Rioters sacked the Sun Theater in protest of the film's portrayal of the Irish poor.

On Feb. 4, 1941, the United Service Organization is founded to offer support for U.S. service members and their families. The USO sent many actors, musicians and other performers to entertain the troops. Comedian Bob Hope made annual trips to entertain overseas troops from World War II through Desert Storm in 1991.

On Feb. 6, 1952, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies at the royal estate at Sandringham. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of the king's two daughters, was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27.

On Feb. 7, 1964, the Beatles arrive in New York from London on their first visit to the United States. Two days later, an estimated 40 percent of the U.S. population tuned in to watch the band's appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

On Feb 9, 1973, Max Yasgur, owner of the 600-acre farm where the Woodstock music festival took place in August 1969, dies in Florida at age 53. More than 400,000 people attended the three-day festival in upstate New York. Concert organizers had expected only 50,000 to show up.

On Feb 8, 1983, gunmen steal the champion Irish race horse Shergar from a stud farm owned by the Aga Khan in County Kildare, Ireland. The 5-year-old thoroughbred stallion was worth \$13.5 million. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of more than \$2 million. Despite a highly publicized search by authorities, Shergar was never seen again and no ransom was paid.

On Feb. 5, 1994, Byron de la Beckwith is convicted of the assassination of civil-rights leader Medger Evers 31 years earlier in Jackson, Miss. Beckwith, widely recognized as the killer, was prosecuted for murder in 1964. However, two all-white juries deadlocked and refused to convict.

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County Voice

EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By Stephen Patrick
Hello Haliburton!



Well, Haliburton County, here we are! And, if you decide you can put up with us, we plan to be here for a long, long time. The entire staff of the Voice has had a ton of fun, and some late nights, putting together this first edition: it's not often we media and sales types get a chance to start something shiny brand new. But we all realize that this first paper marks

just one step in what we hope will be a long and exciting engagement with all County residents, old and new, permanent and seasonal, children, teenagers, parents, and grandparents.

Yes, we're new! And we're counting on you, our readers, to let us know exactly what you think about this issue, and all the ones that will follow. We want The Voice to be a catalyst for discussion, argument, respectful differences of opinion and the occasional outright rant. But first and foremost the Voice will be a vehicle for reporting the weekly news and events in this County honestly and fairly. We'll be covering the deliberations and issues of our four Municipal Councils, Haliburton County, the Trillium Lakelands Board of Education, and the Cottagers Associations. We also plan to cover our representatives and County issues in Queen's Park and Ottawa where warranted. We'll also be looking at the wider world from our perspective, rooted solidly as we are in this County. "All politics is local" is the oft-used quote from the late Tip O'Neill, one-time Speaker of the House of

Representatives in Washington and a Boston ward politician of immense power. But to prove the point, I prefer the story, perhaps apocryphal, of our own Leslie Frost, who reigned in Ontario as Tory Premier for a good portion of the 1950's. Mr. Frost was a Lindsay lawyer and Haliburton County was part of his constituency. After one general election (which he won, as he did every one he held) a Haliburton Tory worker responsible for a few polls in Gooderham received a call from the Premier. After exchanging pleasantries, Mr. Frost quietly asked about a certain poll: "We got seven votes in that poll - I would have thought we'd get nine: could you find out where the other two might have gone?"

Now, we can't promise to cover the ground quite that efficiently, but we can promise to do our very best to represent the great diversity of people, organizations and interests that make up our body politic. We'll be in the schools, the churches, and the rinks. We'll pop up at gallery openings, book launchings, and bird counts, court appearances, dog races, ice races, track meets, and concerts, eco-fairs and County fairs, and even the occasional wedding or funeral. We'll cover the sad news as well, the house fires, the fatal accidents, the drownings, and the car crashes.

"Sunlight is the best disinfectant", said the Supreme Court Judge, and we won't disagree. In any community rumour and innuendo can be a corrosive force: when you don't name persons who've been apprehended and charged by the police, everyone becomes a suspect. So we will report arrests, and we will follow through local criminal cases to their conclusion.

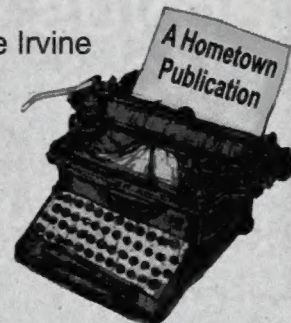
As I've said, our view of this world doesn't rule out a look at our community's stake in events far far away. As you'll see on the opposite page, our range can extend even to Kandahar and beyond. In the last 30 years Haliburton County has undergone enormous changes in its demographics, its diversity, and its connection to that wider world. The information revolution and the Internet have of course pushed these changes at warp speed - even if vast swatches of the County are still on dial-up (a subject of some upcoming articles and editorials - fellow sufferers please feel free to vent at any time at letters@countyvoice.ca).

Despite these changes we still believe that there continues to be a genuine Haliburton identity that is distinctive and kind, ironic, yet plain speaking, rooted in community values and community service. This is the centre, or core from which our editorial 'Voice' will come.

We welcome again all our readers to this new and exciting ride - and we trust you'll be as honest with us as we try to be with you. Write us at any time at letters@countyvoice.ca, or drop a letter off at our offices (in the lower level of Stedman's Mall in Haliburton) and take the time to say hello.

The County Voice

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This One's A Keeper! No Fish Story Here

Melvin Mintz will be bringing a larger auger the next time he goes ice fishing on Haliburton Lake.

The young Highlands resident caught a trophy Lake Trout on January 6 that weighed in at just over 16 pounds and measured three feet in length. Melvin was out with his cousin Michael and he landed the Loch Ness lookalike at 11 am after a half hour fight.

Melvin and Michael were out on the lake in the open (no fish hut) and

Letter of the Week

Melvin was using a 20 lb test "Spider Line" with a dice minnow. It was a cold and cloudy Sunday morning when he tied into the Laker.

The most arduous part of the whole affair, said Melvin's Mom Joan, came while trying to drag the monster Laker through the puny 8 inch auger hole in the ice.

Joan said that the fish will be mounted by Jack's Taxidermy.

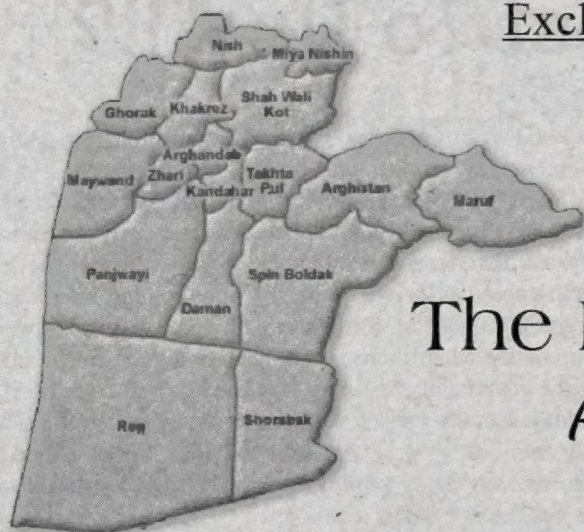
She added that an official dropped by to take a sample of the Lake Trout. She said that she was told the specimen would be used to try to determine the age of the fish. No word yet whether the Laker consented to the DNA sample.



Letters to the Editor Welcomed!!

Being that this is our very first issue, we are not yet flooded with Letters to the Editor - but let the gates open! We are now accepting Letters to the Editor - so let us know what you have to say. You can email them to letters@countyvoice.ca, or mail to Letters - Box 930 Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0 - or drop them off at the office located in the lower level of Stedman's Mall in Haliburton.

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Exclusive to the County Voice

The maps and radios of old have been replaced with plasma screens... which now provide commanders with "real time" situational awareness.

The Road to Kandahar *A Soldier's Journal*

by Captain David Beatty

What does it take to train for deployment to Afghanistan? In most cases it involves a nine month training cycle before an individual deploys into the theatre of operations. Lessons are learned from previous rotations and passed on to those getting ready to deploy. Regardless of how many operational tours an individual has, everyone must under go the same cyclical training in preparation for deployment. This is the Road to Kandahar.

This week's article will be the first of (hopefully) a weekly series dedicated to providing a first hand account of life leading up to deployment and events during my nine month deployment which will commence in May 2008. The focus will be upon Joint Task Force Afghanistan Headquarters (JTFA HQ) which will assume responsibility for operations within Kandahar Province in May 2008 and will remain there until February 2009.

In August 2007, we took our first steps on the road to Kandahar, with a Task Force Commander's fun run (now who ever named a 10 km cross country run as being "fun" clearly needs to get a better satellite TV provider). This was followed by two weeks of lectures on Afghan History, culture, counter insurgency operations and presentations by various governmental and non governmental agencies. After these lectures, it was very apparent that the situation in Afghanistan is much more complex than most people realize.

A 3 week deployment to Honduras to participate in a Canada/US/Coalition of Latin American Countries command post exercise followed. This was to be the first of many command post exercises in which the Joint Task Force Afghanistan Headquarters (JTFA HQ) was to participate in on its road to Kandahar. Surviving malaria and Hurricane FELIX, the Headquarters returned to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Petawawa to commence Individual Battle Task Standards Training (IBTS) (weapons qualifications, 13 km march carrying 56lbs, first aid training etc).

In early October the Headquarters deployed to Canadian Forces Training Area Wainwright AB, to participate in Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN. This 4 week exercise is the final confirmation exercise for those units getting ready

to deploy. In this case, we trained with the 2nd Battalion the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group which deploys in January 2008. Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN is designed to replicate Afghanistan in as many ways as possible. Civilian actors, speaking Pashtu and Dari fill the various markets with Taliban Insurgent Fighters (Canadian soldiers) conducting operations within the area. Our soldiers are fitted out with Weapons Effects Simulation Systems (WESS) which record the accuracy of blank rounds fired at them and those that they fire. This is in essence a very high tech version of laser tag which not only includes small arms, but fire from tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, artillery and Improvised Explosive Devices – the results are very realistic, with a steady "beep" being emitted from your system if you are killed or wounded. Those wounded have a "time line" which if appropriate measures are not taken within a specified time, they become a fatality. Once evacuated to the hospital, the wounded are "treated" by the medical and surgical staffs (replicating the system in place in Afghanistan).

Operations are conducted to simulate the construction of new schools, IED attacks on friendly and civilian personnel, direct actions against Taliban Insurgents, convoys to resupply the various Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and counter insurgency operations. The tests here, closely replicate those which are ongoing in Afghanistan.

MAPLE GUARDIAN is the 'final exam' for those deploying. Every movement and action is recorded; detailed debriefings are conducted after every event with everyone knowing exactly what went right, and what went wrong. Through the use of the extensive computer simulation system, WESS and the Situational Awareness System (SAS), you can run, but never hide

Kandahar cont'd...
pg. 6...



Joint Task Force Afghanistan HQ in Wainwright AB

Meet Captain David Beatty

Captain David Beatty is the son of Bill and Ann Beatty of Drag Lake, Haliburton and the grandson of Mervyn and Eliza. The Beatty family have been residents and cottagers on Drag for three generations: Dave spent his childhood summers there and is proud of his deep connection to Haliburton.

Captain Beatty is a graduate of York University in Toronto and a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment currently stationed in Petawawa Ontario. He has served with The Canadian Airborne Regiment and the Canadian Parachute Centre. A graduate of the United States Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, he has completed tours of duty in Germany and two operational deployments in Bosnia. He will be deploying to Afghanistan in May with Joint Task Force Afghanistan.



This series, over the next 10 weeks, will highlight the meticulous, week by week preparations our armed forces go through to prepare for the mission in Afghanistan. With these articles we hope to give our readers a deeper understanding of the work and life our soldiers lead – and to illustrate just how complex and difficult their preparatory work can be. Captain Beatty's articles will include, next week, the specific training required for this particular mission; next will be a guide to where Canadians are actually serving in Afghanistan and what the role of the Battle Group will actually be.

Captain Beatty will also touch on subjects such as what exactly people can do if wish to contribute in any way to our troops. He'll also describe the intense training his group will undergo in Fort Bliss, Texas (which he calls 'Texas, here we come!')

As the trip overseas becomes closer Captain Beatty will describe the impact of deployments on family life as well as the real differences in the training and equipment the modern soldier requires. Finally, the Deployment Ceremonies, the plane trip, the first experiences with Kandahar and the daily military routine there will all be series subjects.

After Captain Beatty has taken up his assignment in Kandahar he'll report regularly on the progress of the war and the success and challenges of the peace-building process. This series will provide an invaluable and unique glimpse into a part of Canadian life that very few of us know much about. And we welcome, as always, your comments.

Congratulations County Voice Laurie Scott M.P.P.

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Does Family Day Come At A Cost To Us All?

Liz Daniels

Staff Reporter

Everybody loves a holiday! Or do they? Regular working stiff's are usually pretty tickled to have a day off with pay, but they may not be considering the full picture. Most business owners have the constant worry of continually increasing costs in a precarious economy. In our neck of the woods there seems to be a common thread with business owners that Family Day will simply create more costs for everyone.

On October 11th of last year the McGuinty government announced the new statutory holiday, quickly following up on the Premier's campaign promise of a day for families. The Premier says that families need and deserve a day together, something that is harder and harder to achieve in increasingly busy times. In his news release, the Premier added that with the establishment of Family Day, his government was bringing Ontario on par with Saskatchewan, Alberta, BC

and the three territories for days off and rewarding Ontarians for all their hard work. Premier McGuinty also pointed out that Ontario's strong economy could easily accommodate an extra public holiday.

The holiday is legislated to be held on the third Monday in February every year which makes it Monday, February 18th this year. Details posted about Family Day on the Ministry of Labour website state that hard working residents have a long stretch between New Year's Day and Easter break and the mid-winter holiday will allow for rest, recuperation and quality time with their families. Responses to questions about Family Day on the website also suggest that there is good reason to believe that the holiday may even spark an increase in industries like tourism and entertainment and that the additional long weekend may increase employee productivity on their return to the job.

However, many small business owners in the county are on the same page with their feeling that this holiday, simply stated, will hit everyone's pocketbook in some form or another. Jim Henwood, of Henwood's Variety in Haliburton says that "having to pay for another stat holiday is a joke!" Henwood says that the Premier's comment about our economy being strong enough to stand the cost of another holiday is not the case. He went on to say that the government should, at the very least, have waited until 2009 to implement the change, giving businesses more lead time to organize or budget for the additional holiday and unions ample time to negotiate any amendments necessary to collective agreements.

Brock Park, owner of the Cardiff Corner Store, agrees that the change is sure to be tough on smaller businesses, particularly at this time of the year when business is traditionally slow. He, like other small business owners, says that the only way many hard working owners can afford the overall cost of a new statutory holiday is to work the holiday themselves, thus reducing their overtime costs. Not much of a holiday for them. Park said that not long ago it was Sunday that was considered by most to be the day for families to spend time together. He also said that without some sort of relief, the government is pushing the envelope much too far for small retail business.

Dysart's Reeve Murray Fearrey looks at costs from another perspective, but he agrees that the holiday will ultimately cost everyone more. Fearrey says that the costs to cover

the holiday for municipal employees as well as for essential or emergency services will be felt by all ratepayers adding that costs will be even higher if the holiday falls on a day when there is a heavy snowfall and overtime pay is necessary for road maintenance. Fearrey commented that the legal requirements associated with the new holiday have caused a certain amount of confusion with some business owners, particularly when there is a collective agreement involved. On the other hand, the Reeve was quick to point out that if the holiday actually causes workers to spend quality time with their families it's a very worthwhile idea, but he added that unfortunately many employees will still have to work despite the fact that the day is a holiday.

This raises the question of school closures and the cost for child care if workers aren't able to enjoy the holiday. The standard school calendars are set in the spring of the year and normally require a minimum of 194 school days. With the establishment of the new holiday, the Minister of Education had to agree that the school calendars could be reduced to 193 days. Unlike some other school boards, the Trillium Lakelands District School Board has scheduled one of their professional development days to fall on the Friday before the new long weekend, offering families the benefit of four days together. Families could use this opportunity to hit the ski or skidoo trails, taking advantage of local outdoor winter activities which could actually provide a boost to some businesses in our part of the world.

Many of our statutory holidays are founded on religious celebrations or have been established to provide a well deserved reward for hard work and dedication. With Canada's ever increasing multi-cultural population, the basis for some or our holidays is coming under much closer scrutiny. When the creation of a new holiday is viewed simply as an additional expense rather than something to be celebrated with family and friends, the question is raised whether sufficient thought was given before the declaration of a new holiday was made. Only time will tell, but if you do have a holiday, let's hope most of you can use this new opportunity to spend some much deserved quality time with your family as the day is intended.

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will have more details at the luncheon!

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Road to Kandahar Cont'd...

... from pg.5

in Wainwright! The lessons learned at Wainwright's CMTC have been proven to save lives and make our soldiers battle ready.

November saw the Headquarters continuing with its IBTS training and conducting advanced training on the various computer systems which serve as the backbone of the Task Force. Of note, a successful deer hunt does not grant qualification on the service rifle, nor does dragging a deer out of the bush write off your 13km Battle Fitness Test.

While the majority of the Task Force was getting ready for Christmas celebrations, JTFA HQ was busy on yet another two week Command Post Exercise. Conducted by the Centre of Excellence (COE) at the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College (CLFCSC) in Kingston ON, the Headquarters was put through yet another set of gruelling operation planning process exercises, simulated war fighting and to functioning in a digital environment. War fighting has evolved considerably over the last 15 years. The maps and radios of old have been replaced with plasma screens and information management systems which

now provide commanders with 'real time' situational awareness. The constant training and problem solving exercises being conducted by JTFA HQ will no doubt serve us well in Afghanistan.

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decorations, hats & caps, gift bags, napkins, plates, tablecloths, and
freezer mugs to keep your green drinks cold.

We also want to send best wishes to Brett & Joanne and all their staff
at the County Voice on the launch of their new paper.

Debbie, Ira & Joanne (705) 286-3741

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Have Your Say... VOX POP

We asked people how they feel about the introduction of the new holiday, called Family Day, on the third Monday in February.



Sue Grieves

"I feel real good. So good, that I'm organizing a weekend away. However as a business owner, I have to look at the big picture. Though I have to assume the extra costs for staff, I don't begrudge them that. You are paying for the health of your employees and a lot of people need the break this time of year."



Ada Zimmerman

"It's a day in February for everyone to get together. It's kind of a blah month anyways."



James Jowett

"I think it's a really good idea. It's a day for families to spend together that's not commercial."



Helen Gardner

"I don't know about having it up here during the winter months. It could be a bad idea for businesses, but it also could be a good idea as well."



Gerry Zimmerman

"I think it's great. We need a holiday in the winter-time."

**Call Bill about your
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Rick Mercer Has Fun in Haliburton County

... from pg. 1



back in time. Rick explains, "I always challenge Jamaicans when I see them. Me being a Newfoundlander, we always (the Newfoundlanders) traded salt fish for their rum. This goes back centuries." He said there is always a friendly exchange whenever he meets a Jamaican.

But this challenge meant Rick had to lead a team of dogs and go against a trained athlete. But Mercer rose to the challenge and managed to keep up and sometimes even take the lead against his new found Jamaican friend.

Rick admits that he has been on a dog sled before, but never as the sole musher. "I've never had to be in control - it was great. It's beautiful really. Once you go back into the bush, away from all the noise of snowmobiles or people, it's the silence that's spectacular. You really have to experience it - it's beautiful," he says.

While viewing it from a dog sled is new, the beauty of our area is familiar to Rick - he's been here before. "I get up here in this neck of the woods quite a bit actually. I have a friend who has a place in Minden and two summers ago I spent a month up here." He adds, "I'm coming back for sure. I am always looking for a cottage to rent - I will be back - probably this summer."

Rick's upcoming show is a form of journalism and comedy put together. He says he considers himself a comedian first, but says his love of politics is what gives him the edge. "I was able to make them come together (politics and comedy) and that made me happy. I can do both." Making people laugh is something he's been doing since high school and beyond with travelling comedy troupes. In 1992 he began to work with Cathy Jones, Mary Walsh and Greg Thomey, a collaboration that eventually became co-creator of 'This Hour Has 22 Minutes' - and the rest, they say, is history.

Before Rick slipped away, we had to ask him about his current relations with our friends from the south - and more particularly, President Bush. To explain my question to readers who are unaware, one of Rick's popular comedy stunts on 22 Minutes was "Talking to Americans" where Rick would travel to locations throughout the U.S. and conduct on the street interviews with citizens of the U.S. - he would ask them questions about Canada. He made headlines of his own when he had the chance to ask then-presidential candidate George W. Bush a question about a non-existent Canadian Prime Minister "Jean Poutine" - a play on the real politician's name, Jean Chretien and the popular Canadian dish poutine. The response Mr. Bush gave Mercer implied that he was not aware that our Prime Minister was not named Jean Poutine - and later it was said that Mr. Bush was not amused by the joke.

Rumour also had it that CBC was then denied interview access to Mr. Bush as a result. When we asked Rick if it was safe to go south again, he stated, "I think he's finally over that. I'm okay to go south again - the fly zone is clear." He also said he's not exactly sure if interviews were denied but instead said, "that might be what you call an urban myth - but I'm not exactly sure. Actually," he chuckled, "I heard that the last time President Bush was visiting Canada, he made reference to that incident and joked about it, so I think I'm okay now."

More recently Rick had soon-to-be-jailed media mogul Conrad Black on his show and I asked how he managed to get "him" to appear as his guest. Rick smiled, wide-eyed, and said, "I asked him VERY nicely!" Don't forget to tune into the Rick Mercer Report on Tuesday, February 5th - you might see some familiar faces!

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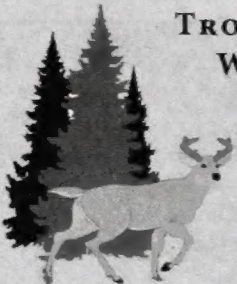
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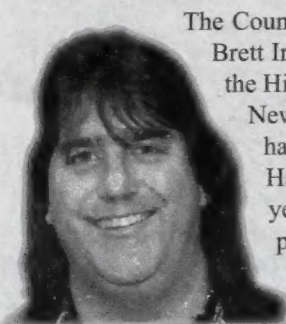


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Meet The Staff of The County Voice

We'd like to introduce all our readers and friends to the staff of the County Voice, Haliburton County's new and only locally owned, operated newspaper.



The County Voice is owned by Joanne and Brett Irvine, the founders and creators of the Highlands Communicator, the Good News, Fun, and Free Newspaper which has been informing and entertaining Haliburtonians for the past seven years. Joanne has lived here for the past 10 years, and Brett grew up in his family's bait, sports, gas and café business in Harcourt and is a graduate of Haliburton High.

His mother, Betty Irvine, continues to live in Wilberforce. Betty was a Harcourt Postmistress who later established a chain of H&R Block outlets throughout the Haliburton and Bancroft area. Brett's brother Chad continues to operate the chain, and will also act as accountant for the County Voice.

Joanne, besides being the founding editorial force behind the Communicator, also has extensive reporting, photographic and editorial experience with local, small town newspapers since 1982. As a youngster in Scarborough her dream was to work for the late lamented Toronto Telegram, known in those years as the feisty, eclectic and occasionally off-the-wall Toronto daily. Her sister and close family friends were all Telegram employees and as a wee gal, Joanne was given her first glimpse of newspaper life during a tour of the Tele. She later became a delivery gal under their employment at a very young age – and spent the rest of her years gathering the necessary experience to head her own publication. "My first story was literally banged out on a manual typewriter. I love the computer age," she chuckles. "And gone are the old cut and paste days as well I'm happy to say."

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Congratulations!

Brett & Joanne ...We wish you all the best for continued success!!

From the management & staff of

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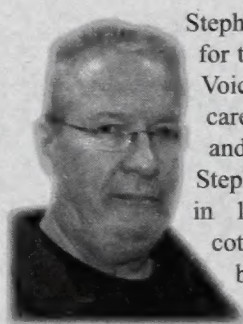
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Brett will be the County Voice's Advertising Manager while Joanne will be Editorial and Production Manager.



Stephen Patrick, a former feature writer for the Communicator, will be the County Voice's first Editor. After an extensive career in television news, current affairs and drama for the CBC and TVOntario Stephen moved to Haliburton permanently in 1985. A life-long Koshlong Lake cottager, his local family roots stretch back to the late 1800s in both Minden and Essonville.

The Voice's editorial staff will include many contributions from the County's freelance writers and photographers, many of whom have published work in the Communicator.

Terrance Gavan will be Sports Editor and occasional columnist and will keep a sharp eye on the exciting local sports scene. Terrance has an extensive background as a journalist and sports contributor to TSN, the Winnipeg Sun, the Canadian Press and many other media outlets. He was reporter/photographer, sports editor and columnist for the Interlaken Publishing chain in Manitoba. He's also a professional ski and snowboarding instructor and, of course, a published poet. Terry moved to Haliburton in 2002 where he works with Auriga Design and is an instructor at Sir Sam's Ski Area during the winter.

George Farrell is an award-winning film, video producer, cameraman and writer and a regular contributor to the Communicator. He's a graduate of the Banff School of Fine Arts, Photo Journalism, and the Ryerson University Radio and Television Arts program. He's been making successful films, videos, commercials and television programs since the early 1970s, and his latest works, a video of the play The Last of the Great White Pine and another video on the 'Making Of' were produced for the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and will be released shortly.

Maureen Moore has two decades of freelance writing experience with publications as diverse as Toronto Life, Outdoor Canada and Cottage Life to name just a few. She's also a long-time adult educator and Advanced ESL teacher (English as a Second Language) and has been the Program Coordinator for the John Howard Society of the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton. She's a graduate of the Trent University and Humber College (Magazine Journalism). Elizabeth Danielsen most recently has been a reporter for Moose FM in Bancroft, and she brings a wealth of journalistic and municipal experience to the County Voice. She's served on local councils in the Northwest Territories and has owned and operated her own small, local paper in the NWT as well.

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Mark Arike attended Haliburton High and is a graduate of the Journalism – Print and Broadcast Program at Durham College in Oshawa. In his final year he won a Student Leadership Award and was a proud member of the College and President's Honour Roll. He was selected by CityTV in Toronto to intern on the Silverman Helps program, where his originality and work ethic were much appreciated.

Lyn Winans is an award-winning photographer and long time resident and teacher in Haliburton County. Her love affair with pictures began in childhood – and she welcomes this chance to put her wonderful eye and professional skill to work for the County Voice as a photographer/journalist. Lyn will soon be a regular at the many diverse and exciting events that take place year round here in Haliburton.

Ben Carnochan is another life-long Haliburtonian who's love of photography has begun to morph into a career. His passion has been wildlife and nature photography, which matches his love of Haliburton's great outdoors: his work has appeared in the Communicator and can be found on the walls of many Kennisis and Redstone Lake Cottages. He's delighted to be able to put his talent to work for the County Voice as a spot photographer/journalist.

Assisting Brett in Advertising Sales will be Bill Van Beek and Amber Rowan. Bill brings a wonderfully diverse resume to the County Voice, having been a resort manager, soldier with the Armed Forces, factory worker, and welder/fabricator/designer in the steel equipment industry. He and his wife Joanne (see below!) semi-retired to Haliburton County in 2004 where he had been fishing, walking the dog and enjoying the peace and quiet until ... his need to keep busy lead him to the doorstep of the County Voice, where his natural sales abilities have already won him many friends and clients in the community.

Amber Rowan was brought up in Haliburton, the daughter of Tom and Gayle Rowan of Donald, and is a graduate of Haliburton High: she's been a salesperson for the last 10 years, starting out selling vacuums door-to-door in Barrie – now that's dedication! She's delighted to be making Haliburton her home again, where's she's the affectionate aunt to Cody and Kade Bain.

Who We Are Cont... Pg. 9..

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GOT NEWS?

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Three Fires in Five Days – But Luckily No Serious Injuries

Wiring, improperly stored clothing and a faulty woodstove are the suspected causes as three area families lost their homes in a rash of fires that swept the county within the past week and a half. Miraculously, no serious injuries were reported in the fires.

The first of the fires broke out at around 4 a.m. on Saturday, January 19 in the home of Carolyn Redner and her son Jason on Hwy 118 near Maple Lake. Jason escaped from his smoke-filled bedroom through a window and quickly returned to rouse his mother. Jason called in the alarm on his cell phone and there was some delay in response as the dispatcher was unsure of the location of the fire. The exact cause of the blaze is yet to be determined; however, it is believed to have started near the fuse box.

A second fire on Monday, January 21 destroyed a home at 14589 Hwy 118. The property which is owned by the Edmonds and being rented by the Tripp family was caused when a bag of clothes covering a nightlight ignited.

On Thursday of last week, Ben Carnochan, photographer for the County Voice, was passing a home at 2136 Kennisis Lake Road when he saw smoke billowing from the doorway. Home owners Lawrence and Margaret Nesbitt and their son Martin were attempting to put out the fire with fire extinguishers. Neighbour Steve Howard had called in the fire and 16 firefighters from Haliburton, along with 4 from Stanhope, soon arrived on the scene. The crews were on the scene for five and a half hours and returned again at 11:30 p.m.

put out a few remaining hot spots. According to Dysart Fire Chief Miles Maughan, a faulty woodstove is suspected of starting the fire which completely destroyed the home.

In answer to fears that the fires may be connected, Maughan replied, "No. All fires are unrelated". While all three fires resulted in a huge personal loss for the families involved, no serious injuries were reported. To protect yourself from injury in case of a fire, Maughan recommends the following:

Insure that you have properly working smoke detectors.

Make sure you have an escape plan as you



Fire fighters battle the blaze at the Nesbitt home

Photos by Ben Carnochan



There was nothing left of the Nesbitt home after the blaze.

won't have long to get out.

If you own any fuel burning appliances, make sure you have a working Carbon Monoxide (CO) gas detector

Staff is eager to undertake the challenge of weekly newspaper operation

... from pg. 8



Working with Joanne in Production will be Joel Potter, another Hal High graduate who moved to Haliburton with his family in 1995. Joel studied E-Business at Mohawk College in Hamilton, has worked in Ad/Sales and design both in newspapers and at Patient News Publishing, and has a Post Grad Certificate in Graphic Design for print and web.

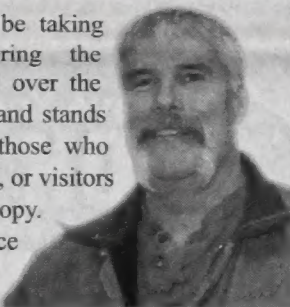
Greg Ross will be taking care of delivering the County Voice all over the county to stores and stands every week for those who want extra copies, or visitors who want a copy.

The County Voice is provided free to residents of

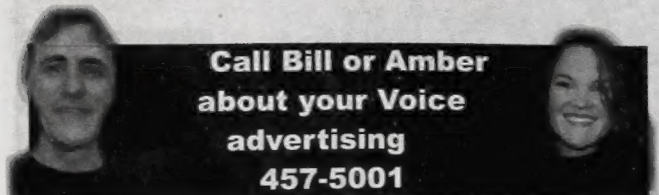
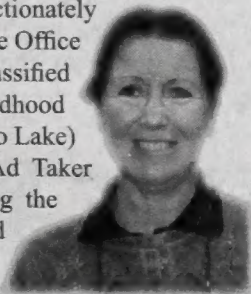
the county with a mail box and extra copies on stands for just \$1 including GST.

Greg retired from the Toronto Police Dept, in 2007 after 32 years on the force. "I was just looking for something to do in my retirement, so I took up some part time work at the Beer Store in Minden, and I'm looking forward to meeting new people with the deliveries of the paper." Greg will also handle deliveries of the Communicator to local stands.

He lives with his wife Darlene in Minden who works for Bill Dewey at WRD Cottage Rental Agency in Haliburton full time. They have one 26 year old son who has moved "out of the nest" and is married and living in Whitby. "I love the Highlands so much because there is so much to do year round here. I'm into the outdoors and keep entertained with fishing, boating, snowmobiling, ATVing and most sports in the area."



Finally, Joanne Van Beek, affectionately known as "Alice", is our indispensable Office Administrator, Receptionist and Classified Ad Taker. A Torontonian, (and a childhood cottager on Devil's Lake, now Salerno Lake) she started in the business as an Ad Taker for the Toronto Star while attending the University of Toronto. She's worked in Human Resources for the Federal Government, managed a fly-in fishing resort with her husband Bill, and has a college diploma in mechanical drafting. Her daughter Kristin is a competitive swimmer with a great shot at making Canada's 2008 Olympic team and will be at the Olympic trials in Montreal this April. GO KRISTIN! Alice will continue to be 'the friendly voice on the phone' for the Communicator as well as keeping the County Voice staff organized, efficient, and always friendly.



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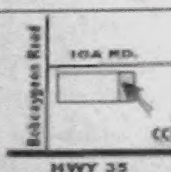
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On a clear day you can see ... your garbage!!

Maureen Moore
Staff Reporter

On a clear day you can see – the garbage. It has been a month since the townships of Minden Hills, Highlands East and Algonquin Highlands joined the growing number of municipalities using clear garbage bags, and the results so far are encouraging. Bob Romberg, Environmental & Property Manager for the Township of Minden Hills, estimates that from 40 to 60 percent of residents are already using the see-through bags.

The motivation behind the move was to encourage residents to recycle. "It's all about the 3R's", says Romberg. When clear bags are used, dump employees are able to see any items that should have been placed in the recycling bins. The amount of material that is dumped, rather than recycled, is staggering. Romberg cites the example of one Nova Scotia municipality that reduced that amount of waste from 300 kgs per person to 65 kgs in the first year after clear bags were introduced. Using clear bags will extend the life of dumps and prevent the additional cost of trucking garbage out of the county, according to Romberg.

There have been some complaints about the new program made by phone and to dump employees in person. The most common complaints include the extra cost of the bags (about \$1.00 per package of 10 bags), a large supply of old bags on hand, and residents who "don't like being told what to do". According to one dump employee, "most people are really good about it, but some people just don't like change".

While residents bringing garbage to the dump in green or black bags may be asked to empty the bags on site and place any recyclable materials in the appropriate bin, so far for Minden Hills has taken more of an educational approach. "It's a matter of encouraging people to get on board", says Romberg.

A Guide to Recycling – Pay Attention to Your Bins!

Alison Laura Potter
County Voice

To make recycling easier, it helps to be organized at home, before taking waste to the dump. Each township in Haliburton County has slightly different ways of sorting waste, so it is worth checking the individual municipal websites for more information.

However, most households will find it sufficient to have three bins for waste: one for containers (which includes plastic containers, plastic bottles, styrofoam containers, clear and coloured glass bottles, and metals such as pop cans, aluminum cans and foil), one for fibres (brown paper bags, waxed cartons, household paper, magazines, newspapers, boxboard, fibre egg cartons, and cardboard), and one for non-recyclable waste. At some dumps, plastic bags can also be tossed in the container bin, but some prefer plastic bags to be separated from the other recyclables, so check at your local dump first. All containers should be empty and rinsed before being thrown in the recycling bin, and all boxes should be broken down.

Recycling is mandatory throughout the Highlands, so anyone making a trip to the landfill should be aware that the attendant might check any bags that come in. Dysart's landfill manager, Mark Brohm, assured me that attendants will be reasonable, particularly as people are getting used to the recycling transition. If a person is caught throwing out recyclables with their trash, they will be given a warning, or could be asked to remove the recyclable items. Likewise, if garbage arrives in a dark bag, the landfill attendant might request that the bag be dumped and sorted properly.

"Dark bags can still be used for recyclables," Brohm pointed

out. "All the recyclables need to be dumped into the big bins anyway, so that's a good way to use up your dark bags." He then explained that after the recyclables are dumped into the appropriate bin, the empty bag, whether clear or dark, should be recycled along with the other plastic bags, such as grocery or shopping bags.

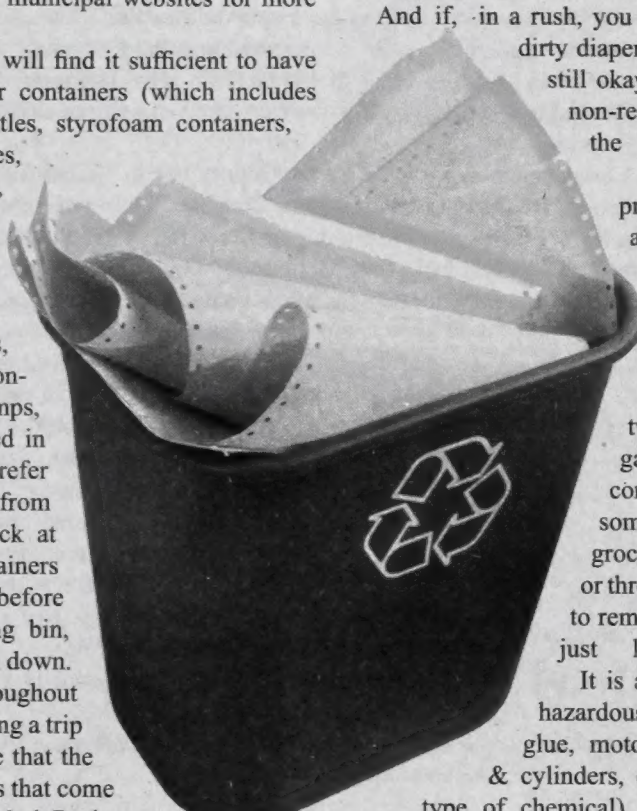
And if, in a rush, you toss some old food scraps or a dirty diaper into a plastic grocery bag, it is still okay to throw it in with your other non-recyclable waste, even though the grocery bag is recyclable.

"We're okay with a couple privacy bags," explained Brohm, a "privacy bag" being any small non-clear plastic bag that is in the clear bag with the regular garbage, such as a grocery bag or small kitchen catcher.

Which means, of course, that two or three non-clear bags in the garbage are okay, whether they contain something private, or simply something messy that went into a grocery bag first. Anymore than two or three, though, and you may be asked to remove and sort them appropriately, just like any other recyclable.

It is also very important to note that hazardous waste (such as paint, varnish, glue, motor oil, batteries, propane tanks & cylinders, cleaners, aerosol cans, and any type of chemical) cannot be recycled or thrown out with regular trash, since they will leak dangerous toxins into the soil, air and waterways. These items must be saved and stored until hazardous waste collection days, where they can be taken to the participating landfills and disposed of properly.

For hazardous waste collection dates, landfill information and recycling details, please see your Municipality's website.



Have Your Say... VOX POP

We asked people what they think about having to put your garbage in clear bags?

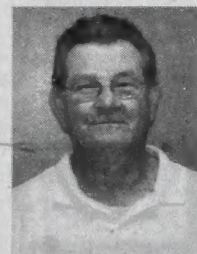
Ev Stata

"We already use them at the Park Lane apartments that we live at. It's no problem, whatever helps out the garbage dumps."



Gary Urquhart

"I think they're going a bit overboard with it."



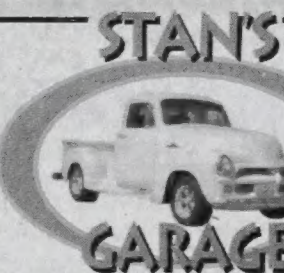
Carolyn Nichols

"I haven't been able to find any heavy ones (bags). We're still putting our garbage in the small shopping bags, so how can they see what we're putting in them?"



John Menzies

"When I throw my garbage out, it's in a really small bag. Usually I'll just dump my garbage out of the bag into the big pile at the dump."



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High School Heads Up! School Exam Change

Please be advised of the following change to exam schedules for secondary school students in City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton.

Due to bus cancellations January 29th and 30th, the final day of exams that would have been written January 29th will be written February 1st.

Students not writing exams are not required to report to school February 1st; instead, regular Semester Two classes will resume Monday February 4th.

The schedule is as follows:

Thursday Jan. 31st Turn-around Day (No students in schools)

Friday Feb. 1 Examinations (from Jan. 29th)

Monday Feb. 4 Regular Semester Two Classes

Students with any questions about individual courses should contact their school.

Highlands East Council Briefs

Liz Danielsen

Staff Reporter

Members of the Highlands East Council held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 29th. Aside from some general housekeeping items and the review and approval of a number of applications for property severances, the Council concentrated their efforts on their 2008 annual budget. Budget submissions have been received by most departments and remain under consideration.

Fire Chief Bill Wingrove made the first presentation to Council and provided a detailed breakdown of costs for the Fire Department including honorariums, training requirements, standard operational expenses, equipment repairs and capital replacements. The Department's budget proposes a substantial increase from last year with increases necessary in honorariums, the purchase of rescue materials, legal fees, and insurance and equipment repairs. Of primary concern to the Council and the Department are the proposed capital expenditures, which include the replacement of pumpers and tankers over a period of years to meet their underwriter's requirements. During 2008 consideration will be given to the purchase of new pumpers and tankers at an estimated cost of

\$750,000. Consideration was given by Council to a proposal to purchase the equipment through debentures over a 15 year period.

While recognizing the need for the equipment, Councillor Partridge was quick to voice her concern about both borrowing, as well as borrowing over such a long term given the amount of interest involved. Council spoke at length about the purchases, agreeing that replacement equipment

was needed for both the Gooderham and Bicroft stations. Further consideration will be given over upcoming budget sessions.

Council also reviewed the proposed budget figures submitted by Glen Covert, Environmental & Property Supervisor. This budget included all associated costs for building maintenance, landfill, water and sewer as well as parks and recreation. Costs were much in line with previous years, excepting minor repairs and necessary replacements. One capital item included in the water budget was the development of a new 6" standby well. Various funding options were discussed and Council concurred that having an engineering study completed would be in order at this time, in readiness for any funding applications that might be required.

CAO Sharon Stoughton-Craig reported that thought needed to be given to the purchase of a number of new computers as well as new software. Existing software has been in use since 1993. The staff will be considering software programs presently in use by the Haliburton County Council and Hastings Highlands.

Upon completion of their budget deliberations, the Council moved into a closed session. On completion of their discussions they returned to their regular session and passed a resolution ratifying a memorandum of settlement for their staff union contract. A formal contract remains to be presented to Council for final approval at a subsequent meeting.

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Take this Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: NAME PAIRING
Complete the pair of names.
(e.g., Mork and _____. Answer: Mindy.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. Sonny and _____.
Answer _____
2. Punch and _____.
Answer _____
3. Bonnie and _____.
Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. Batman and _____.
Answer _____
5. Tom and _____.
Answer _____
6. Simon and _____.
Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. Wallace and _____.
Answer _____
8. Will and _____.
Answer _____
9. Fred and _____.
Answer _____

ANSWERS: 1. Cher. 2. Judy. 3. Clyde. 4. Robin. 5. Jerry. 6. Garfunkel (Schuster). 7. Gromit. 8. Grace. 9. Ginger or Wilma.

SCORING:

18 points — congratulations, doctor;
15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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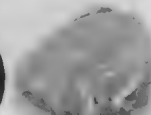
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Speed on Ice: The Minden Ice Races

Ben Carnochan
Photojournalist

In 1976 the Minden ice races first started. Prior to then the series was held on lakes all over the province. In the mid-1980s the entire series shifted to Minden to run on the dry land track as it was safer. It has run in Minden ever since.

The organizing clubs are all members of Canadian Automobile Sports Clubs, (CASC) the same group which runs Mosport and Shannonville, Ontario. Each individual club organizes a weekend in Minden. For example, the club that organizes the Molson Indy in Toronto will organize a race in Minden.

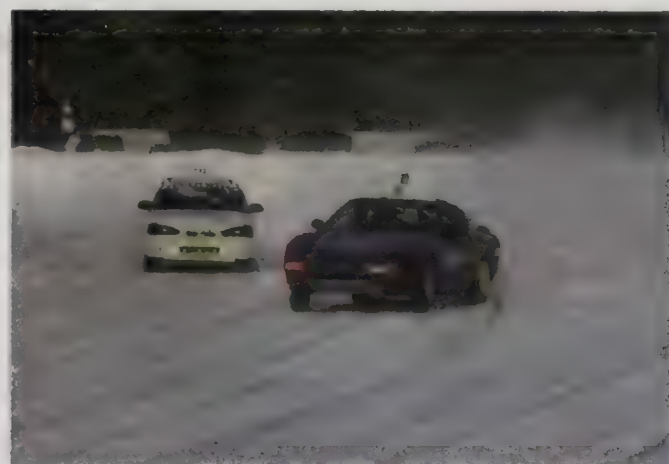
The races are run strictly on a point system, a trophy or jacket. No money is won. This is what you call poor man's car racing. This is so the average person can come out and race.

The race categories are, first, rubber-to-ice which is regular snow tires modified slightly for racing on ice. The second uses the old street-studs that were run in Ontario years ago. The last series uses competition stud tires built in the USA. Within those categories are three different classes. Class one is front-wheel drive, class two rear-wheel drive and class three four-wheel drive.

The Kin Club, or Kinsmen Club as they used to be called (they now have men and women members,) provides the facilities, the CASC pays for the use of the facilities and that money is then used by the Kin Club to pay for different projects they promote.

Due to time restraints, for instance, not enough daylight in a day, sometimes all three classes are run at once. You only race against your class. It can be confusing for the public that doesn't know this. So then there are three first place winners for rear-wheel, front-wheel and four-wheel drive classes.

The weather last Saturday was partly cloudy with some snow falling off and on. It feels cool out, hovering around freezing. The track is silent but you can hear the buzz and bustle of drivers getting their cars ready in the pits, the ratcheting of their tools, and the whine of the impact guns.



SWERVE!

three hours wondering and worrying, fear creeping in. I have never ridden in the front seat of a race car, let alone having to photograph the proceedings as well!

Then the time comes. I double check my camera to make sure that it will grab exactly what I want through the front windshield and that it's mounted down tight and strapped in. Then I get my helmet on and strap myself into the passenger's seat as the driver, Dan Douglas, puts his helmet and belt on. We drive down through the pits to line up in the "mock line" where all the cars line up in order depending on their place standing. We start in second place.

We wait in line ten minutes before being told to go on track. We go around once and line up in order again in front of the flag tower. The anticipation is high, my heart pounds in my chest. The driver and I look over at the tower, waiting for the green flag. I'm ready with the remote release for my camera held firmly in my hand. The green flag is waived and we are off down the track.

The first turn sideways, Oh my! What a thrill speeding down a track of ice at high speed! We just got passed! We come around the far side of the track and then back on the straightaway speeding down past the tower. By lap three the track is now getting slicker. The tires are not gripping like they were at the beginning. Yikes! The car slides sideways into the corner.

"A little too fast into that turn," the driver says. A little too fast he says? I'll say!

We get passed another three times. "Is it the extra weight?" I ask. "No. It's my tires. They're not gripping as much as they should," he says.

We pass one guy to get back into fourth position. Then it was all over. Is that all I thought to myself? Feels like we just got out here! Twelve laps took fifteen minutes but seemed like only two. Amazing how time goes by when you're scared to death and having fun!!

We pull off the track and into the pit area. We end up in fourth place. At least I got my shots of the other cars. He says he deliberately lost places so that I could get my shots. "At least, it makes me feel better saying it that way," he says with a grin.

I would like to thank Danny Douglas, his family and friends for allowing me to ride passenger in his car to get the photographs and also for the moral support as I certainly was a little nervous before getting in the car. Awesome driving and hope you do well in the upcoming races!

For the general public the races are on for another five weekends. Admission is free so go down there on a weekend and have fun! Results will be posted online on the CASC website at www.casc.on.ca. Just follow the Ice Racing link found on the main page. Also if anyone is interested full rules, regulations and schedule is on the site for if you are interested in racing your own race car.



It's SCARY inside that car!



Highlands East in Review

Elizabeth Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Last year proved to be fraught with difficulties for the Highlands East Municipal Council. But then, most members of a community council would likely agree that the first year working together is often pretty tough. Any new Council, facing considerable responsibility on behalf of their ratepayers, must bring themselves up to speed on the issues of the day and learn to work as a cohesive group on behalf of their constituents. Simply learning to work together as a group is no simple task, particularly when it comes on the heels of a difficult election. Add a fire department in upheaval and angry environmentalists trying to halt development to the standard mix of budgets, roads, dumps and dogs and any municipal Council would have their hands full.

But Reeve Dave Burton believes that despite a difficult year things are coming together for Highlands East. The Council recently brought in a consultant to conduct an organizational review in the hopes of ensuring the most efficient operation possible. Burton says the municipality's tax base is limited and he wants to see residents getting the most for their tax dollars. The consultants have interviewed all the staff and Council, both in groups and individually and have looked at equipment and facilities. They are expected to bring forward a report making recommendations for efficiencies across the board. The review is the first to be conducted for many years and is particularly timely since the Highlands East amalgamation in 2001. During the year the Council hosted a community forum in each ward to let residents know their plans and to allow the ratepayers an opportunity to bring forward their concerns. These concerns were in turn passed along to the consultants to include in their final report which is expected within the next six weeks.

In the fall the Council hired Bill Wingrove as their new Fire Chief. Wingrove, a resident of Ward 4, is a veteran member of the Fire Department which should go a long way to reducing any remaining inter-departmental conflict. The Department is now actively recruiting and gaining new volunteers and all six fire halls remain open. Burton says the Council has purchased a pumper truck for the station on Highway 28, adding that as some equipment has seen better days, they plan to improve existing equipment and make acquisitions for all the stations as the budget allows.

When asked about the community's libraries, Reeve Burton says the Council is committed to keeping all four of their libraries open if at all possible. He says that unfortunately the Haliburton County Library Board want to move toward closing four of the eight libraries in the County, which could mean Highlands East having only one central library. The County Library Board maintains the position that this move will allow for enhanced services and improved facilities. But Burton reports that the residents of Highlands East are content with the status quo, despite work being required on several of the library buildings and a possible rate increase to complete the necessary work. The Reeve says his Council will be asking the Library Board to take another look at their recommendation, adding that the County Council should have held public meetings prior to making their recommendation.

Burton also confirmed that, despite ongoing public concerns and the concerted efforts of the Irondale River Protection Association, the Ministry of Natural Resources has approved the Bark Lake asphalt plant development by Beamish Construction. However, a Certificate of Approval is still pending from the Ministry of Environment after an environmental and clean air review. No schedule is in place yet for the development which may be dependent on the road construction schedule for this year.

Reeve Burton also reported that he is very pleased to have been appointed to represent Haliburton County on the newly established Source Water Protection Committee. This committee, established to protect source waters in Ontario is comprised of 23 members overall. Their first order of business following their recent orientation, is working on establishing their terms of reference. Burton emphasized

the importance of this committee to Highlands East which contains three separate water sheds.

When speaking about the Council's accomplishments over the past year, Burton voiced his pleasure in the success of the Council's application for an infrastructure grant. Highlands East received 100% funding from the Provincial Government to complete repairs to all the bridges within the municipality. The funding received was a one time grant in the amount of \$372,000.

This is over and above funding received through COMRIF to install to new bridges, now complete.

Last, but not least, the Reeve spoke proudly of the staff and Council's continuing efforts and success in both preparing and working within their first annual budget. This is one of the primary goals that all Councils strive for, but they rarely have the same level of success. So for that, the Reeve's hat is off to all those who assisted the municipality in reaching their goal.

Algonquin Highlands Review

Maureen Moore
Staff Reporter

Illness was to blame when Reeve Eleanor Harrison of Algonquin Highlands was faced "for the first time ever" with a lengthy agenda but not enough councillors present to make a quorum at the January 24 council meeting. There will be no shortage of issues to be dealt with at upcoming meetings.

Early last year, routine bridge inspections failed to turn up major damage below the water line on the bridge on Buckside Road. A later inspection, however, established that the bridge will need major structural repairs in the coming months. Algonquin Highlands has applied for government infrastructure funding to help cover the costs. The cost to the municipality will not be known until the province's funding decision is handed down later this winter. The bridge has been narrowed to one lane, but according to Harrison, "I don't think we will need to consider closing the bridge".

The expansion of Stanhope Airport continues to be an issue in Algonquin Highlands where residents disagree on the advantages of a larger airport and concerns over the noise and cost of the new runway. The costs of designing and building the expansions will be available in May at which time public meetings will be held.

Countywide cuts in library funding are another concern for Harrison. "We may be faced with the possibility of closing a library", says Harrison. These issues and "the challenges that are always there when running a municipality", will keep Harrison and her quorum of councillors busy for the coming year.

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Joanne, Brett & Staff on the premier edition of
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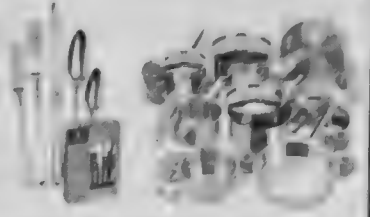


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Archie Stouffer Students – The next Generation of Global Citizens



Lyn Winans

Photojournalist

This year students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) have come together to help their less fortunate peers on the other side of the world. A group of seventh and eighth graders who attended a recent Global Leadership Conference in Huntsville has decided to raise funds to construct a well in India. They call themselves "Helping Hands" and their efforts will provide fresh water for approximately 400 people. After considering a variety of ways to make the world a better place, Helping Hands decided to put their energy into supporting the long-standing charitable program called Help a Village Effort, or HAVE.

What gives this global effort a great local twist is that the students chose to carry on the work that was initiated right here in Haliburton- County in the early 1980s. Gerry Feltham, a local cottager, teacher, and OXFAM worker founded HAVE, which over the years has provided fresh water for literally tens of thousands of people in India and Africa. HAVE is also one of Haliburton's most productive and cost-efficient charitable efforts, with over 90% of all monies raised for HAVE going directly to the construction of the wells.



And now, through the efforts and generosity of these ASES students, this work will now be energized by a new generation. When asked why they chose to spend their free time fundraising, the kids unanimously responded that they felt privileged to live in a region with so much fresh water, and felt some responsibility to assist others who were not so lucky. Besides, they said, "It's a good feeling to help others!"

Anyone wishing to support these generous young people with their endeavor can contact "Helping Hands" at Archie Stouffer Elementary School at 705 286-1921.

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Minden Development Update: Canadian Tire A Go... No to McDonalds for Now...

George Farrell
Staff Reporter



It seems that ever since the speculation regarding Canadian Tire coming to Minden became a reality, rumors started flying regarding McDonald's and Swiss Chalet following suit in the urbanization of the Minden stretch of Highway 35.

After much slogging through winter mush, talking to business owners, this reporter received word from a very reliable source that developers have taken a pass, for the time being, on both highway properties purportedly in the market for redevelopment. One of the owners failed in the attempt to secure a corporate company, and the other owner has access issues. So much for rumours....for the time being at least.

As for Canadian Tire, the site plans are at the Municipal offices, for anyone to access, should they wish. A look over the plans revealed a long low building, 7 meters high and about 400 feet in length, incorporating a Marks Work Warehouse, and six service bays for vehicles. There are plans for a fairly extensive planting of trees and shrubs around the perimeter of the building, with landscaping to cover 120,392 square feet, or 36.6% of the total site area. The total area is 3.06 hectares or 7.56 acres. It's a consolidation of 5 properties including addresses 72, 74, 78 and 80 Water Street. Landscaping will come within 4 meters of the sidewalk on Water Street. Floor area figures posted in another local publication were not correct, and suggested a much smaller store. The correct figures are Garden Centre 6,161 square feet, with a total retail area of 30,357 square feet. There will be parking for 295 vehicles. The entrance is opposite the road to Beaverbrook Golf Course, off Water Street. Everyone concerned is just awaiting the arrival of spring, to put shovel to earth. Or is that the fall when construction commences? It varies with who you're talking to.

According to Reeve Jim McMahon, even though there has been no one to date who has stepped forward with an offer to purchase the Canadian Tire franchise for Minden, construction will commence in the spring, regardless. "Canadian Tire will run the store themselves if a buyer is not found in time for the projected fall opening."

McMahon also said that according to his sources "there was talk of closing the small Canadian Tire store in Fenelon Falls; the thinking being that by having super stores in Lindsay, Bracebridge, Bancroft and Minden, they will have effectively covered the south central area."

Sheldon Wheeler is a Canadian Tire employee who lives in Minden. Mr Wheeler was guarded about what he could make public at this time, but it was his opinion that construction would commence "by the fall." His job is to "authorize the truck route accessing."

"We have requested for the plans to be put through, including Marks Work Warehouse. The Canadian Tire Real Estate team creates a draft plan for a building. They decide what they consider the best routes, and then pass the plan over to me for review. I contribute things like line-up of trucks, pedestrian safety, snow impeding the dock area, and re-routing. I will question them, and put my approval" (on the plan).

The Wheelers who were living in Brampton, moved to Minden in October. "My mother-in-law and father-in-law are living in the area and we've moved to be closer to them," said Wheeler. Sheldon and wife Wendy are parents to 5 young children, four of whom are presently attending classes at Archie Stouffer School in Minden. According to Sheldon, Wendy is "already involved in the school council, and we anticipate being active in the community."

For the time being Sheldon Wheeler is commuting back and forth to Toronto.

Pictured Above: Sheldon Wheeler, Canadian Tire Employee

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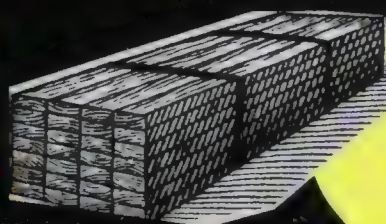
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DREAMS BECOME REALITY AT HOME

Constable Mark McMaster Spreads The Word...

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Grade six students at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School had their knowledge put to the test when OPP Const. Mark McMaster dared to face them with the facts about tobacco use.

Held on Friday, Jan. 25, this was the second installment of a nine-week course that Constable McMaster is devoted to. The program, known as D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), educates youth on the alarming true facts about smoking, alcohol consumption and drug abuse.

From the moment McMaster (who's been involved for five years with the program), entered through the

Listen UP! ... And DARE to be Different!

classroom door, an anxious, eager group of Mrs. Linda Shantz' students were raring to go. After quickly calming down the enthusiastic bunch, it was all eyes and ears on their fill-in teacher for the next hour.

"I want you to split into working groups and read the story on page six," began McMaster. Each student had been supplied with a special D.A.R.E. booklet during the officer's prior visit. After reading this first short story, it was up to the students to determine (in the scenario) how many kids in the eighth-

grade out of 100 actually smokes. The purpose of this example was to dispel the notion of smoking being the "cool," or "in" thing to do, when in fact only a small percentage are lighting up.

Students then went on to read facts about smoking and the use of chewing tobacco. Then, McMaster went on to describe this other method with a little story of his own.

"When I was younger, a guy I played hockey with would spit it out onto the ice," he recalled. "No one wanted to skate near that part of the ice!"

In the booklet, students are warned about the health risks of smoking, financial losses it creates and the common misconceptions youngsters may have. Hard facts from within the guide, such as: "45,000 people a year die in Canada," were also read aloud by students.

Next, the kids' math skills were put to the test when they were asked to calculate how much money a person would spend in a year if they were to buy a pack of smokes averaging \$6.50 per day.

"That's almost \$2400.00 a year!" revealed one of the students.

As students enrolled in the current program progress they will learn about other harmful substances such as methamphetamine and ecstasy. Mrs. Shantz has seen how effective the program has been in the past and continues to be a firm believer in it.

"When we go and show them pictures of people who do meth, they're disgusted by the before and after shots," said Shantz. At the end of the course, students write a final paper on their D.A.R.E. experience and may read it to their peers at a special ceremony.

"I love doing this," says McMaster, a 25-year OPP veteran, on teaching D.A.R.E. "It's a nice change from being on the road all those years." Kids

have many decisions to make, and being able to provide them with the information to make the right ones gives this officer a great feeling of accomplishment.

Though he admits that he had seen some of his past students, now in high school, doing some of the things he taught them not to do, it's just a fact of life that not everyone makes the right decisions.

"All I'm doing is giving them the tools," says McMaster. "Let's face it, we all have decisions to make." As an instructor of the program, he says he often gets asked whether the program works or not. His motto is; if you don't try you don't know.

Further into D.A.R.E. some of the harder drugs and their harsh realities are exposed, and McMaster says it's astonishing how some students have already heard about them.

"It's unbelievable," he states, "You'll see some of these kids say, 'What about crystal meth or crack?'" It could be thanks in part to television, shows like CSI, McMaster admits, but he says that students usually don't know what the repercussions attached with using those drugs are.

According to the official Web Site of D.A.R.E. (www.dare.com), the skills that the program teaches millions of students yearly has led to its implementation in over 43 countries worldwide. The police officer-led series gives students from kindergarten through to Grade 12, "the knowledge they need to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives."

Constable McMaster gets a really positive reaction from the children he leads through the program. One local mom was so impressed with her son's non-stop fave reaction to the D.A.R.E. program she could only ask plaintively, "So why doesn't he teach math?" Second career, anyone?



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SCRAP!

Patient News Publishing Pushes the Envelope Again (and into the right container!)



Patient News Publishing SCRAP team.

Groan, yawn, another committee you say? And on my own time? Well, an astonishing 35% of PNP's staff showed up at the first meeting to see how they could help come up with better ways to treat the environment in which they work, and live. The committee decided not only to bring recycling into their business operations, but also to "look at all manner of ways where we can do better serving the environment: i.e., Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle". The committee named the project the Strategic Consumable Recycle & Assessment Program, or SCRAP for short, and the campaign was underway.

Here are just a few of the initiatives the company has taken over the past year. The first step was to establish a company-wide recycling program: every area of PNP was reviewed with the aim being to identify what could be recycled. Bins were established in the kitchen for recycling of paper, plastics, aluminum and packaging; most garbage bins were removed from desk areas and replaced with recycling containers only. Print waste was reduced, all light bulbs throughout the company were changed to the energy-efficient variety; a composter for all vegetation and coffee grounds type of waste was purchased.

In addition, wherever possible all products that seemed to have excessive packaging were examined to see if they could be replaced by bulk supplies, or by using suppliers who were more environmentally friendly. And these measures were just the beginning.

After a year of these types of programs PNP has eliminated a full 60% of the garbage that previously ended up in the landfill, even after a 10% increase in the company's workforce. The paper used internally and for the PNP's newsletters is now 100% Forest Stewardship Certified, meaning that all products come from forests where absolute respect for the environment is maintained (no clear-cutting, sustainable forest practices used, etc.). PNP is the first newsletter company in the entire world to achieve this designation.

This coming year PNP's SCRAP committee has even more members, and is actively pursuing more ways to make the company – and the entire Haliburton County environment – a cleaner place. And the employee's motivation? "Our motto is: It's the right thing to do", says committee member and PNP executive Alice Miller. And she's just announced the next move in this campaign: a challenge to other Haliburton area businesses to match the PNP record! To take up the challenge, simply call Alice Miller at 457-4030. And remember those all important three Rs!

According to a source deep inside the rumbling presses and chattering computer keyboards of Patient News Publishing's headquarters in Haliburton, a year and a half ago Wayne Lavery, the company's founder and CEO, "looked up from his abacus and said, 'Hey, we sure have lots of garbage, maybe we can do something with this recycling thing I hear is becoming the new wave. Do you want to do something about it?'" Or words to that effect.

So shortly afterwards a meeting was scheduled to organize a volunteer staff committee to explore ways and means to reduce and recycle PNP's not inconsiderable office waste.

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Close Encounter with a Distant Relative

Lyn Winans

Photojournalist

Jimmy Flynn played to a packed house at the Minden Community Center last Saturday night, and at first glance the auditorium looked like a garden of windblown daffodils with so many fans decked out in their bright yellow Jimmy Flynn sou'westers.

Flynn proved to be an affable, down-to-earth guy ... mixing with fans, conversing with, and signing autographs for anyone who approached him. His wife of 37 years accompanied him, chatting and selling Flynn paraphernalia, CDs and videos while Jimmy entertained.

Jimmy's motto is, "have a good time, laughter is the best medicine", and laugh they did. The crowd loved his east coast jokes told in his rich Newfoundland accent. The music was foot-stomping loud, and the show was a great success.

BUT



Jimmy and Billy are cousins!

Our Jimmy was blissfully unaware that he was about to have a close encounter with a distant relative. Now that can be a scary thing!

In attendance, but unbeknownst to Jimmy, was one Billy Flynn who also hails from Newfoundland. He had come to Minden to visit friends, and to track a long-lost relative.

During a trip home

in his small isolated home town of Petite Forte, NFLD (population 100, give or take a few). After poring over the local Flynn family tree, Billy discovered that his great-grandfather and Jimmy's grandfather were brothers who had traveled together to the Placentia Bay area from County Cork Ireland in order to escape the potato famine of the 1850s.

As happens to many families, the original Flynn settlers each went their own way, and what elapsed during the next century and a half will be left to Jimmy and Billy to sort out at a future reunion.

With hugs, phone numbers and e-mails exchanged, along with a get-together planned for the spring, one can only surmise that a foot stomping, fun and

enlightening trip through the past is in store ... and the conversations will undoubtedly be replete with some down home "Newfie" humour.

The Jimmy Flynn show was organized

Everyone's a Newfie!

to the east coast two years ago, Billy visited with a local genealogist-historian

by Arena Manager Ray Miscio, and the food was prepared by the snack bar staff under the leadership of Elaine Smith. And a great time was had by all.



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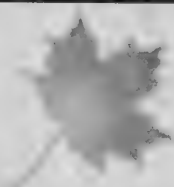
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Mondlock – Nash Concert a Sell Out

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Buddy Mondlock and Jory Nash, two folk-inspired, singer/songwriters by profession, riveted their audience with each note sung and guitar strum struck during their sold-out, one-night only concert held at the Haliburton Museum on Friday, Jan. 25.

Hosted by the Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS), the pair of musicians and friends seemed to effortlessly captivate those in attendance with their deep, meaningful words woven together with polished harmonious vocals. It was clear to see, that on this night, Nash and Mondlock were in their comfort zone and that the respectful audience who paid witness to their emotionally-charged music couldn't take their eyes off the stage.

"Their writing talent is just phenomenal," said host of the show and HCFS member, Chris Kadwell. "You have to read their lyrics, and as a bonus you can listen to their CD too."

Songs that the two belted out told gripping tales of searching for satisfaction, discovering oneself and facing loss in life - to name a few themes. One song in particular by Nash, titled "Long Black Funeral Train", expresses the sadness that an 11-year old boy goes through after losing his grandfather. As well as singing their own solo songs, both complemented each other's voices quite delightfully when on a duet.

Fans of their music, who remained on the edge of their seat for most of the night, truly felt moved by the pair's inspirational tunes.

"They are very entertaining with their thought-provoking lyrics," said Haliburton resident, Rick Cazabon. Enjoying the show with his wife, it was the first time he heard either of the two.

"We've got to get both of their CD's," said Cazabon during a short intermission. "You can't get one and not the other."

Another local resident, Peter Dobie, decided to bring his musically inclined daughter to the show after an unexpected opportunity presented itself.

"Well, it was my birthday today and I opened up my birthday card and there were two tickets to this gig," said Dobie.

With a loyal fan-base, both artists have been able to tour most of North America and other parts of the world, and both have been able to turn their passion for music into a career.

"Four years ago, I met Jory at a music conference in New York," said Mondlock of their first encounter. "I really liked his music and I guess he liked mine all right too," he said.

Mondlock, who grew up in Park Forest Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee. His musical resume speaks for itself. In 1987, he won the New Folk Award at the Kerrville Folk Festival for his first album, "On The Line". In the years thereafter, David Wilcox recorded one of Mondlocks' songs, and Mondlock even went on to do some written work with the country superstar, Garth Brooks.

For years, Nash was trying fervently to get his talented buddy up to Canada. While the Toronto resident (who, by the way, is no stranger to the Highlands) was in a yearly Gordon Lightfoot tribute concert.

"My parents have a cottage in Kinmount, so since 1979 I've been coming up here every summer, so I recognized at least a quarter of the audience here," said Nash.

"He invited me to come to that (tribute show) and I performed a couple of Gordon Lightfoot songs and then he was able to put together a

couple of other shows for us," describes Mondlock. For the night's grand finale, Mondlock united the audience as he welcomed them to sing along to the chorus in the song "Had No Choice". It was the climatic moment of the evening and a great way to cap off an extremely successful event.

"We had 74 tickets for the concert and they all sold-out," said Kadwell. "So we let some people in for cash at the door."

Both Nash and Mondlock were emphatic about showing their appreciation for the Haliburton folks and their love of folk music.

"I knew this show would be great with Buddy," said Nash. "Our styles compliment one another, so if you like Buddy's you'll like mine."

To find out more about the two, visit their websites at www.buddymondlock.com and www.jorynash.com.



Jory Nash and Buddy Mondlock

Meet Our Editorial
Cartoonist...

Local Resident Kath Watson



Kath Watson is an artist born and raised in the Haliburton Highlands and currently lives in Wilberforce. She is the daughter of Murray and Betty Austin who owned Roberts Austin Fuels for many years in Haliburton. She has had a love for drawing, watercolor painting and colour pencils since childhood. Watch for more drawings here in the County Voice from this great local talent. Her cartoons will be appearing on the editorial page each week!

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COUNTY VOICE SPORTS

Thursday, January 31, 2008

Homebuilders Hockey: 10 Years of Charity and Fun

This past weekend the Haliburton County Home Builders Association (HCHBA) hosted their 10th Annual Charity Hockey Tournament at the Arenas in Haliburton and Wilberforce. Throughout the past decade Head Organizer Aggie Tose has brought together a bunch of wild and fun loving guys and gals to celebrate friendship, hockey, and the chance to help out the less fortunate in Haliburton County (and throw a few stray elbows along the way!)

This year's Tournament featured 20 teams from here and around the province competing in four divisions. Haliburton contractors were well represented as usual with Churko Electric, Burtch Construction, Bancroft Homestore and G's Unit among them. The Highland Storm County League also provided a team made up of the boy's Coaches.

Financial figures weren't compiled by press time – Aggie Tose jokes that she actually has a day job working at Burtch Construction, although with all the volunteer work she does for the HCHBA it's sometimes hard to tell – but this weekend was a sure-fire success. Since the tournament's beginning Haliburton's 4Cs and Minden's Food Bank have been major beneficiaries of all the work and fun. Aggie Tose would like to thank all of the participants, volunteers and spectators for all their hard work in a great cause.



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Cross Country Skiers Hit Haliburton's Hills

Last weekend saw the Haliburton Open 2008 cross country competition take place at Glebe Park with about 150 skiers from across the province in attendance. The weather was great and the competition fierce. The races were qualifiers for the Ontario University championships and for the Ontario Winter Games as well. Haliburton's Nordic Ski Club had a number of young participants including Damon Flatman, Preston Roberts, Paige Roberts, Ali Hicks, Brigitta Hicks and Emily Turner.

This event continues to be one of the most popular spots in Ontario's cross country ski calendar – many of the participants noted just how crowded an event weekend it was in the Highlands – which just added to their enjoyment.

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It's not too late to try Taoist Tai Chi this winter. New beginner classes starting last week and this week may still be open. Some of the amazing health benefits of this ancient art include balance, flexibility, strength and stress reduction.

People of all ages can learn the gentle turning and stretching movements. It's a proven way to maintain, improve or recover health, often recommended by doctors and other health professionals.

The Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada is a registered charity, dedicated to improving people's health in our communities. Trained, accredited instructors volunteer their time in order to help others.

There are daytime and evening classes in Haliburton and Minden plus a daytime class in Wilberforce.

For more information call - Wilma Thomson@ 457-1909



Ali Hicks, Brigitta Hicks & Damon Flatman

Hook, Line, and - Fun: 9th Annual Tourney

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) held its 9th Annual Murray Scott Memorial Ice Fishing Derby on Misquabi Lake this past weekend, and raised almost a \$1000, with the winners taking away half of the loot and the remainder going to help the Association. Murray Scott was an original HHOA director who passed away 10 years ago and the HHOA has honoured his memory in a way he certainly would have appreciated ever since.

There were over 40 participants in this year's event, with Dave Flowers of the Ministry of Natural Resources collecting the measurements and Robert Fraser weighing them up.

First prize went to Chuck Climenhage from Fonthill, ON for his 2lb, 15 oz Lake Trout. His prize was \$230 and a tackle box donated by G'n Fishing. Chris Coumbs of Haliburton came in 2nd with a 2lb 10 oz trout: he collected \$134 and a space heater from CC Enterprises.

Greg Pearson from Whitby ON came in third with a 2 lb, 4oz. specimen and was awarded \$96 and another prize of assorted hunting gear from Outdoors Plus.

The weather was clear and cold, and the participants had a great time: imagine, fishing on a beautiful day with the chance of getting paid for it!



2nd place: Chris Coumbs



1st place: Chuck Climenhage

Sports Trivia Answers

Answers

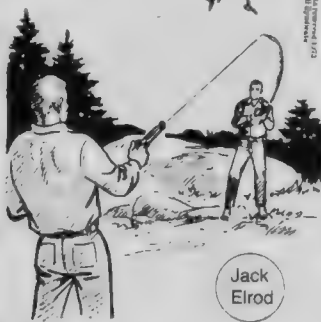
1. Steve Barber won 20 games for the Orioles in 1963, the franchise's 10th season in Baltimore.
2. Six-plus seasons (1966-1972).
3. New England's Rodney Harrison reached the milestone in 2007, his 14th NFL season.
4. Marcus Camby (UMass, 1996) and Jameer Nelson (St. Joseph's, 2004).
5. Tom Johnson.
6. Don Carter and Weber's father, Dick Weber. Both won their titles when the event was known as the BPAA All-Star Tournament.
7. The WBC title. (c) 2008

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By Chris Richcreek

1. Who was the first 20-game winner for the Baltimore Orioles?

2. How many seasons did Leo Durocher manage the Chicago Cubs?

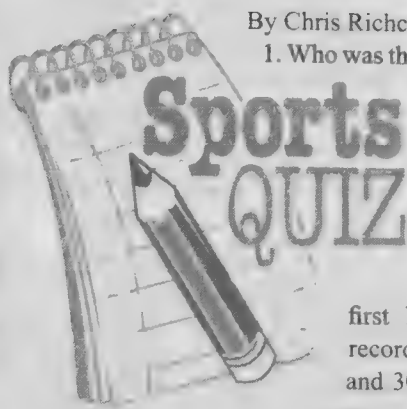
3. Name the first NFL player to have recorded at least 30 sacks and 30 interceptions for his career.

4. In 1996 and 2004, the Atlantic-10 had the national Player of the Year in men's college basketball. Name either one.

5. Name the coach who led the Boston Bruins to their last Stanley Cup title in 1972.

6. When Pete Weber won his fourth U.S. Open bowling title in 2007, he tied two others with four career wins. Name them.

7. What was the only belt that heavyweight boxer Lennox Lewis held when he retired in 2004?



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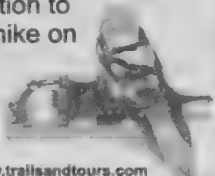
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Sports This Week

Boys Basketball

- Senior Boys Basketball Tournament at Fenelon Falls Monday February 4th 9 am – 4:30 pm
- Junior Boys Basketball vs. LCVI in Lindsay Tuesday February 5th 1:15 pm – 7:30 pm
- Senior Boys Basketball vs. LCVI in Lindsay Tuesday February 5th 1:15 pm – 7:30 pm
- Boys Basketball, Kawartha West Play-offs Thursday February 7th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Girls Volleyball

- Senior Girls Volleyball vs. CESS at CESS Wednesday February 6th 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
- Junior Girls Volleyball vs. Fenelon Falls in Fenelon Falls Thursday February 7th 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Red Hawk Hockey

- Boys Hockey vs. LDSS at Home Monday February 4th 7:15 pm – 8:15 pm

Wrestling

- Wrestling Meet at Cobourg East Tuesday February 5th 6:30 am – 7:00 pm
- Wrestling Meet at Kawartha Cadet Championships Thursday February 7th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Curling

Minden Curling Club

- Minden Carquest Bonspiel Senior Men (50+) Tuesday February 12th
 - Rockbuster Bonspiel (Men) February 15th - 17th
- For more info contact Steve Robson 286-4724

Haliburton Curling Club

- Whirlpool, Newbatt's Mixed Spiel February 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
- Ladies Tournament of Hearts Saturday February 9th
- Jack Bassett Mixed Wednesday February 9th

Wilberforce Curling Club

- Don Ferreau Ladies Valentines Spiel February 15th & 16th
- For more info contact Doug Stephen 448-1411

Highland Storm Rep Teams Charge into the Playdowns



Highland Storm Atom A

none with the boys scoring 19 goals, while giving up only 6. Their next opponent in the Playdowns is likely to be Wasaga Beach, with games hopefully starting this weekend.

Coach John Ballantyne's Atom A team were also decisive victors over the Orono Leafs in three straight games by scores of 6-2, 6-3, and 4-1. Their next opponent is yet to be decided, but the games will begin this coming weekend. Meanwhile, the Pee wee AE team, coached by Jamie Dollo, fell in three straight games to Mariposa, but Wade MacInnes' Pee wee As won three straight over the Orono Leafs by wide margins, scoring 15 goals and allowing only 1.

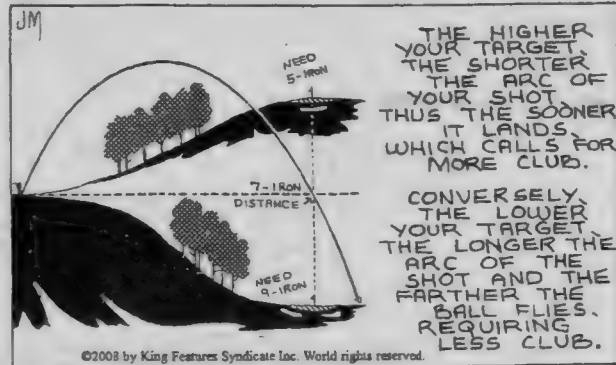
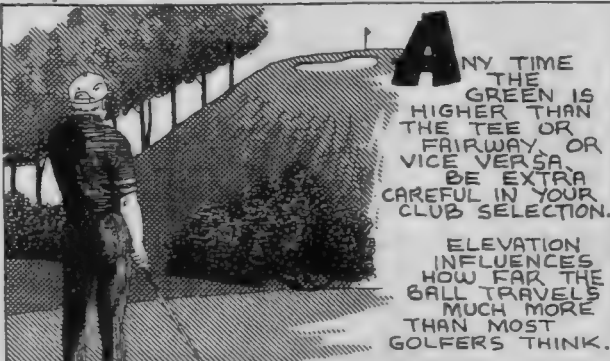
Finally, Coach Joe Roberts Bantam group is currently tied at two games apiece with Orono at press time. The Midget boys, coached by Greg Carpenter, won their series three games to one over Orono and will advance.

This is a great time to be a minor hockey fan in Haliburton County, with all the Storm teams producing fast, clean and hard-hitting action. The team spirit is infectious, and the boys play their hearts out every single game. The County Voice will try to bring you as up-to-date schedules as our deadlines will permit – and when in doubt check the bulletin boards at the Haliburton IGA or Dollo's IGA in Minden for updates. Or just call the Voice at 457-5001 and we'll try to help out.



Highland Storm Atom AE

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Renovations At Our Hospitals

A Short Interview With Interim CEO of HHHS

George Farrell

Staff Reporter

Janice Hardy has been in her new position as CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services for a mere two months. Before her new posting she was Chief Nursing Executive and Director of Long Term Care with Health Services. She has moved around a lot in her career, but has been in the Highlands now for 4 years. The Voice talked recently with Janice specifically about the renovations to emergency departments in the hospitals in Minden and Haliburton.

"When these facilities were designed and built it was before outbreaks of an infectious nature such as SARS. Things were different then, and the nurse stations for instance had an open concept, because staff safety was not a concern. Things have changed drastically, and now our facilities are totally part of the computer age, so we decided to look at everything in regards to work flow, and how we do business on a daily basis. Work stations needed to be redesigned to accommodate and keep pace with changes in technology."

"In Minden we removed the old nurses' station in

emergency," states Janice. "We removed flooring and walls, and we're expanding the nurse station space, putting in new flooring, and painting. It's going to have a whole new look and feel to it. Before it was an open concept with one computer and no storage space. After it's finished it's going to give nurses and physicians, nurses especially, more room to do their work, and it's going to allow them to do it more easily. Nurses will also be protected from patients coming in with potential infectious diseases, by a glass partition. The new area will also afford more privacy for patients in the rooms. Right now there is a potential for conversations (with physicians, nurses and family members) to be overheard."

Construction at the Minden site started on January the 7th, and will be completed by Jan

25th. "The work has employed many local contractors," says Janice and there has been no disruption of services. "The transition from the old to the temporary station went very well, and there were no glitches." The temporary area is where the nurse first sees the patient, and the temporary waiting area has been the hallway. "People have been coming in to emergency through the ambulance entrance, rather than the main doors."

Funding for the emergency area renovations to both hospitals has come through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund, and the total costs are in the neighborhood of \$50,000-\$55,000 for each site.

"There was a lot of staff involvement," says Janice. "We hired a design firm who spoke with the nursing staff several times in order to get to the final design. The staff task force then went with Debbie Watson, the Nurse Manager of Patient Services, to Toronto, to the Burnside Design company showroom, to pick out colours and flooring materials, and to just get a sense of how everything would look. We really did take a lot of the nurses ideas, and they were incorporated into the design to make it work for them."

In Haliburton, construction will be starting at the emergency area on January 28th, and it will be a repeat of the process that went on in Minden. The projected date of completion is the end of February. "The colours and materials will be different, but the basic principles will be the same," says Janice Hardy. "It will be the same crew of contractors, and there will be similar staff input." A total of about 30,000 people go through both hospital emergency departments each year.

"There was a lot of staff involvement"

Snow-A-Rama 2008



Fun times for a good cause.

For 31 years the Haliburton Rotary Club has been raising money for the Easter Seals to help disabled children lead more productive and active lives. This year's Snowarama event for the Easter Seals was held last weekend at the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve, and over \$10,000 was raised. The monies go directly to help the charity fund equipment for disabled children and allow them to lead more productive and active lives. For many years the fuel for the event was donated by Sid Stamp Fuels in Minden, and that tradition has been continued by their successor, Thermoshell Fuels.

This year's run featured over 20 riders from across Ontario: Art Dawson of Dawson Insurance in Haliburton personally raised over \$4000 in pledges for the event.

Dr. Ed Smolen

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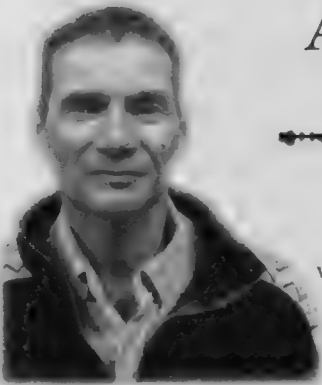
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A Product of my Upbringing

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

First I played and then I wrote.

Always there in the dimmed recess of my psyche was my father.

My father imbued me with

a love of the game.

What game?

Hard question... easy answer.

All games.

I used to while away Saturday nights watching Hockey

Night in Canada. Sundays it was baseball or golf or CFL Football and it could have been curling or the fights or horse racing.

My favorite time of year was October. When dad would knock off work early and we'd sit glued to the television on a Wednesday afternoon watching the Yankees or the Reds or the Dodgers parlay summer fun into autumn wonder.

And today I spend way too much time glued to the screen. Last weekend it was the Australian Open Tennis and on Sunday it was watching mesmerized as Tiger masticated the field.

I know what my dad would say about Tiger Woods. He wouldn't lament Tiger's usurping primacy over the likes of Jack Nicklaus or Sam Snead. Dad owned a Sam Snead Fedora which he wore religiously even though I believe pops golfed only once in his life.

Dad loved the way Slammin' Sammy Snead played the game.

"See that," pops would say, watching Jack or Sammy swing away.

"That guy just hits the ball."

And that's just what he'd say about Tiger Woods today.

"That guy just hits the ball."

And I remember we'd go out and watch amateur baseball on a sloped hill overlooking a diamond in Sandy Hill, a borough of Ottawa.

We'd watch for a bit. And then dad would start to tell me a little about the pitcher.

"When he moves his left foot over... like that... he's coming with a fastball."

The throw would arrive in the catcher's glove. Sure enough. The heat at the knees.

"Now he's moving his shoulder to the inside... and he's throwin' the curve."

And down the pitch would come, taking a long, lazy and melodic arc to the mitt.

My dad imbued me with a respect for the players.

Sports Column

I never once heard my pops denigrate an athlete for even the most egregious of errors.

I got to write sports for a living for many years after graduating from the University of Manitoba.

I covered a lot of amateur sports as part of my beat for Interlake Publishing back in the 80's and early 90's.

I tried never to blame a loss on a play or a player. Because like my pops I realize that a game is not won or lost on a single play. For every last second field goal there was a second quarter 3rd and one.

I carried my father on my hip in my spiraled notepad.

My dad's favorite writer was Red Smith a sportswriter who literally transformed the genre.

Red became my favorite writer. Later I moved to Roger Kahn and Frank DeFord and Mitch Albom. But I go back and read Red today. I have a few books with his best columns.

Lew Burdette was a crafty old righthander who owned a sinkerball that some considered might be a little dew-ridden. Red Smith wrote that his record should include "wins, losses and relative humidity."

I read that in a recent Sports Illustrated.

And I thought of Pops.

Dad loved a good spitball story.

Got a story you'd like to tell me? Or an event upcoming?

Get in touch with me at sports@countyvoice.ca

I still carry that spiral notebook on my hip.

Pops and I would love to hear from you.

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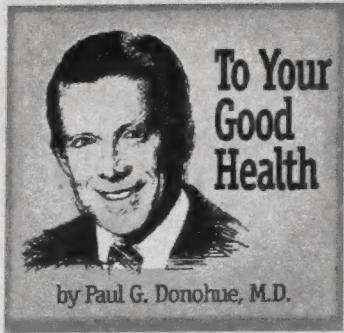
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To Your Good Health

by Paul G. Donohue, M.D.

Insulin Delivered by Pump

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have been an insulin-using diabetic for 15 years.

The insulin pump idea

intrigues me. I have to give myself as many as four shots a day, and I am getting tired of the inconvenience. What are your thoughts on the pump? Would I benefit from it? -- K.K.

ANSWER: The insulin pump delivers insulin at a constant rate through a slender, plastic tube inserted with a needle under the skin at the same body depth where a person injects insulin. The pump itself is about the size of a thin beeper. It's worn on the belt or put in a pocket. The plastic tube is taped to the skin.

Pumps have been around for more than 20 years. They're a reliable way to get insulin into the body. They can be programmed to deliver larger amounts of insulin at the times of day and night when more is needed. For example, during sleep, just before waking, blood sugar rises in the early-morning hours. The pump can inject more insulin at that time. The same goes for mealtimes.

A person with a pump must still check his or her blood sugar. If it's high, the pump user can activate the pump to release a surge of insulin.

I think insulin pumps are wonderful, but they're not for everyone. They take some getting used to, and a person needs special instructions to learn their ins and outs. More than 200,000 Americans avail themselves of a pump. For those who have to inject themselves many times a day, the pumps are a real boon.

At some future time, there might be a pump that tests blood sugar and then releases an appropriate amount of insulin. That's the eventual goal for this technology.

Diabetes is discussed at length in the booklet by that name. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue -- No. 402W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Is it better to drink diet pop or regular pop? -- B.

ANSWER: It's OK to drink either if you do so in moderation -- one or two cans a day.

Regular pop has a hefty supply of calories, around 150 for 12 ounces. You don't get any other nutrients with those calories -- no minerals, no vitamins, no fiber. Sugar in regular pop promotes tooth decay.

Diet pop has no sugar, so that's something in its favor. Caffeine in either form of pop puts women at risk for coming down with high blood pressure if they drink four or more cans a day.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am 63 and have a condition that people call "turkey neck." The skin under my neck hangs down. How can I get rid of it without surgery? It's not a double chin. I do exercises for it, but they aren't working. -- A.L.

ANSWER: How can I break this to you gently? I don't know of any way to get rid of that redundant, drooping skin without resorting to surgery.

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Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Larry," has lost his driver's license until the case can go to court. However, he still continues to drive. Larry's wife doesn't want a confrontation with him, but she is worried that if he should get into an accident, he could be arrested. We're all concerned because with his license suspended, his insurance might not cover any accident or ensuing lawsuit, and his family could be bankrupt.

What should his wife do? Hide the keys? Call the police? -- WORRIED MOM, ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR WORRIED MOM: You have every right to be concerned, and so does Larry's wife. For an adult, your son's behavior is immature and shows extremely poor judgment.

It's too bad that your daughter-in-law is afraid of a confrontation because that is what it may take. You ask if she should hide the keys or call the police. I have another suggestion. If necessary, she should give your son's keys to YOU, to be returned only after his case has been adjudicated.

DEAR ABBY: I have lived in my condo for three years. My across-the-hall neighbors moved in two years ago. To welcome them, I left a bottle of wine, some bread and a floral arrangement outside their door. I received a gracious thank-you note in return. Since then, we have talked in the hall, but socialized only rarely because I travel frequently for business.

I recently married a phenomenal man. He also travels extensively, so he has rarely seen our neighbors. When he moved his belongings into our condo, the neighbors popped over with a bottle of wine (they have a cellar) and a fruit basket. We thanked them profusely, but I handed the bottle of wine back, stating, "We don't drink, but maybe you could open it and think of us when you do."

What I didn't mention to the neighbors is the fact that my husband is a recovering alcoholic, 15 years and counting. Again, thanks were offered and I wrote a thank-you card that very night. While I was writing the card, my husband gently intimated that I may have committed a faux pas by returning the wine. He thinks we should have accepted it to be hospitable, then re-gifted it to someone else. What do you think? -- NO OFFENSE INTENDED IN N.Y.

DEAR NO OFFENSE INTENDED: What's done is done, so don't flog yourself. However, once a gift is received, it belongs to the recipient to do with as he or she wishes. And the "proper" thing to have done would have been to thank them warmly for their thoughtfulness -- and then re-gifted it to someone else.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman



Wild Bird Tragedy

A disease introduced into the wild during the 1940s from U.S. domestic poultry has killed 15,000 birds around Utah's Great Salt Lake over the past month, some literally falling dead from the sky. The U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center said the birds were killed by avian cholera, which caused some birds to try to land a foot or higher above the water, fly upside down or swim in circles when they eventually hit the lake. The disease is caused by the bacterium *Pasteurella multocida*, currently the most prevalent infectious pathogen among North American waterfowl. While it doesn't affect humans, wildlife officials warn that people shouldn't pick up the birds or let their pets chew on them. Tom Aldrich, of Utah's division of wildlife resources, said the disease flourishes in cold weather, and last November was the coldest on record.

Whales Lose Protection

President George W. Bush sidestepped two federal environmental protection laws by signing a waiver that could allow the U.S. Navy to use sonar in its anti-submarine warfare training off the California coast. The exemption drew outrage from environmentalists who believe the use of high-powered underwater sound could harm whales and dolphins. A number of studies have shown that sonar can cause marine mammals to suffer decompression sickness, bleeding and fatal beachings. California Attorney General Jerry Brown urged a federal judge to nullify Bush's waiver. "It's hard to find words to express the extent to which this deviates from the American tradition of separation of powers. It's shocking," Brown said.

Rat-Eating Vine

An extremely rare plant that can eat small rats was found in an isolated area of Australia's Cape York Peninsula, according to a report by the Australian Broadcasting Corp. It says James Cook University botanist Charles Clarke and a colleague found the species at an undisclosed swamp location near the Jardine River. They are keeping the exact location secret to protect what they have dubbed "Tenax" from collectors. The carnivorous plant grows like a vine to about 10 inches in height and mainly eats small insects, ants and an occasional lizard.

Raining 'Fire'

Anak Krakatau (Child of Krakatoa) volcano spewed incandescent rocks as high as 8,000 feet above Indonesia's Sunda Strait, posing a threat to fishermen and tourists sailing near the volcanic island. The Antara news agency reports that eyewitnesses said the eruption produced a deafening sound and sent large amounts of smoke billowing even higher than the red-hot stones. Vulcanologists warned those rocks were as hot as 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit and could have killed anyone struck by them. Anak Krakatau has produced swarms of increased activity in recent weeks.

Earthquakes

Shaking from a 6.2 magnitude temblor off Sumatra caused a ceiling to collapse, killing an 11-year-old boy on Nias Island. Other structures sustained minor damage.

• Earth movements were also felt in Indonesia's Maluku Islands, New Zealand's South Island, central Iran, northern Chile and northern parts of the Yukon Territory.

South Pacific Cyclone

High winds from the remnants of Cyclone Funa downed power lines in northern New Zealand's Hawke's Bay region. Large waves generated by the storm injured five passengers on a cruise ship sailing between New Zealand and Vanuatu.

Middle East Chill

The most bitter cold front to blow over the eastern Mediterranean since 1964 plunged much of the Middle East into a deep freeze. The chill destroyed fruits and vegetables from the Jordan Valley to Syria. In normally temperate Egypt, temperatures hovering just above freezing left residents shivering in homes designed for scorching summers.

Early Awakenings

Unseasonable warmth and dampness across Finland during much of January appear to have convinced some brown bears to leave hibernation. Several of the animals have been seen crossing roads, mainly in the southeast of the country, and ursine movements have also been detected through radio monitoring of bears fitted with tags. Ilpo Kojola, a research scientist at the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, said the active bears had probably "not built their winter quarters" properly. Kojola added that a bear would not usually leave its den in winter unless its bedding became saturated by rainfall. The season's first blizzard, predicted for late in the week by Finnish meteorologists, could force the early risers to find another dry and warm place to resume their winter slumbers.

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Food Banks: Why You Still Need To Donate

George Farrell

Staff Reporter

In a community as beautiful as Haliburton County it's sometimes hard to believe that people live below the poverty line, and go hungry. But it's true, and it's all tied to income. Rural incomes are considerably lower than urban, while food costs are often much higher.

In Haliburton County there's a particularly high percentage of families with a limited income, due to the seasonal nature of a lot of the work. Many of the job opportunities in our county are part time, contract, or minimum wage positions. Many employed residents in our county are classified as 'working poor.' They have jobs but don't make enough money to cover living expenses.

The rural poor in the Highlands are in many ways invisible. They don't beg for change like you see poor people doing in major centres. They don't line up at homeless shelters, because there are none. They rarely complain about their plight because that's just not the way things are done around here.

While it's true that some people can go in season, and hunt wildlife for some of their food, it's not enough, because to stay healthy people need nutrition from all the food groups. Many poor people can only afford the minimum. It's also hard for poor people to feel good about themselves because in most societies in Canada there is a stigma attached to poor people, which effectively ostracizes them from the social fabric.

In Haliburton County, for a family of four with one full-time minimum-wage earner, the total monthly income after adjustments, is around \$1,500. After average rent, utilities and telephone are subtracted, and with the addition of \$132 per week for food, the family is actually operating on a budget of minus \$350.00. This is just one example which places this and other families like it under the poverty level, or as it is now referred to, the Low-income Cut of Rate. We are not talking about a relatively small percent of our population. It might surprise some people to know that 41% of all households in Haliburton County have an income of less than \$29,000. As a family of four is living in poverty if they earn less than \$26,000, it's easy to see that many households are perilously close to the line, and they're just a sickness, injury or job-loss away from tough times. We all know that as costs go up minimum wage levels do not keep pace. Furthermore, people on fixed incomes are seeing the buying power of their money decrease every year. Forget about budgeting on EI and Social Assistance Income (Ontario Works), it's just about impossible. Here's another startling statistic from Stats Canada: in 2001 one in four children ages 0-6 in Haliburton County live in poverty.

All the expenses people have to make are fixed. The only expense that is "bendable" or adjustable is that related to the cost of food. Many poor people who cannot meet all their monthly payments very often do without the proper foods in order to meet those other expenses. This leads very quickly to health issues, which subsequently lead to an increased load on our health system. So it goes without saying much more, that agencies that help poor people secure food are badly needed.

The Toughest Months Are Coming Up

Many people give to food banks especially during the Christmas holiday season, when they are imbued with the feeling of generosity. These donations of course are very much

appreciated, but it might interest donors to know that the hardest months for people who need your support are February March April and May. The Haliburton County Home Builders Association is one organization that recognizes this, and that's why proceeds from the Jan 25- 27 Builders Charity Hockey Tournament are going towards the Haliburton County and Minden Food Banks.

We spoke to Rosie Kadwell recently. She is a Public Health Dietician who works for the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District (HKPR) Health Unit, in Haliburton. She agreed that the socio-political dysfunction that makes food banks a necessity is another story unto itself. And while she readily acknowledges the current need for food banks, she sees them as a band-aid solution at best.

Rosie is the Chair of Food Net. This community partnership raises community awareness about local poverty issues and works with local food programs to help increase food security for residents of Haliburton County. Some of the food action programs in place are the Good Food Box, Grow A Row, Cooking and Budgeting Workshops, Milk for Moms,

Community Gardens, Student Nourishment Programs, Family Supper Nights and Food Banks. Rosie's job is to "put public policy and programs in place to maintain good health and prevent illness."

"What I hear from our food banks is that the number who access them is on the rise," she says. Originally food banks were established as an emergency measure, but more families find themselves relying on them to make ends meet. In Haliburton County we have 4 amazing food banks, in Haliburton, Minden, Cardiff and Wilberforce. They are all run by dedicated volunteers and operate on community donations. In some cases the municipalities assist in some small way.

Food Banks Can Only Be Accessed Once A Month

Many people don't realize that most food banks can only be accessed just once a month, occasionally more in certain situations. Food Banks are only mandated for emergency situations, and the amount of food that is obtained only lasts for 3 or four days.

How many people access our food banks in our county? The total is 259 families in the winter, and 174 in the summer. That breaks down to approximately 284 children and 446 adults.

There is a myth out there that people are abusing food banks. This is simply not true. Service providers tell us that many people are too proud to use the food banks, and go hungry instead. But what do those people who do need a constant source of additional food do if they're only allowed access to

food banks once a month?

Additional Food Sources

Luckily there are other agencies running additional programs, to fill in as needed. The HKPR Health Unit has put out an excellent booklet titled "Food For All" which describes where to find free, or low cost food in your community. There's information there for everyone who needs it including expectant mothers, families with children, seniors, and persons with a physical disability. Call the Health Unit at (705) 457-1391 to obtain a copy of the booklet, if you wish to access the programs, or if you would like to volunteer. Additional information on reducing poverty can be found at www.hkpr.on.ca Click on 'topics' then on 'reducing poverty.'

Emergency Food Banks Information

Minden Food Bank: (705) 457-3331, Haliburton 4C's Food Bank (705) 457-3331, Cardiff Community Food Bank (613) 339-2397, and the Wilberforce Word of Life Emergency Food And Clothing Outreach (705) 448-9707



Rosie Kadwell, Public Health Dietician with the HKPR Health Unit

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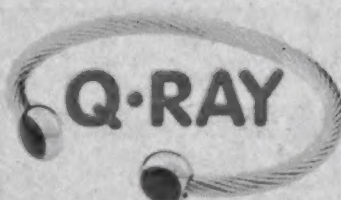
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